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SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 104

APRIL 13, 2008

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Where should the governor deliver his State of the Commonwealth Address this year?

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INSIDE



Room Design

"The important things in a room are the essence of what you hold valuable."

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...

Page 10

Severe Weather

Another round of severe weather raked the storm-weary South with rain, hail and high winds Friday, damaging homes and injuring five people in Tennessee and Kentucky.

NATION...Page 17



Miss USA

A 26-year-old entrepreneur from Texas was named Miss USA on Friday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Senate OKs charter change on land lease, Article 12. **PAGE 3**

Wespac to take up Pacific fishery issues—again. **PAGE 5**

Hawaii senators back S. 2739

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both Hawaii senators spoke in favor of the CNMI immigration bill during floor debate on Thursday, congressional records show.

Senators Daniel Akaka and Daniel Inouye, in expressing their support for the omnibus bill S. 2739, made particular mention of the provisions that would have federal government take control of labor and immigration in the Northern Marianas.



Akaka



Inouye

See **FEDERALIZATION** on Page 4

Senate OKs bill suspending power rate rollback statute

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate has approved legislation that would reverse the October 2007 rollback of local power rates.

But the Senate did not clear the bill without a fight. The upper chamber inserted an amendment saying that the rollback law will only be suspended for 60 days, instead of being repealed.

See **NEW** on Page 4

Cities struggling to fill potholes

By DON BABWIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

East St. Louis, Ill., already desperately poor, didn't need this.

All winter long, snow- and ice-covered streets repeatedly froze and thawed, opening up scores of cracks in the pavement. The cracks turned into potholes, and the potholes turned into gaping craters.

See **POTHOLES** on Page 4



A bus drives by a gaping pothole on Lake Shore Drive on Chicago's North Side Thursday, April 10, 2008.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PIT STOP

Participants take a break beside the American Red Cross flag during the 22nd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon at the 4H Building in Susupe Saturday morning. Hundreds of community members participated in the fundraising event.

Around the CNMI



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

A total of 186 CNMI Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets from all the schools in the CNMI, including JROTC cadets from Guam, participated in a five-day JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge Encampment at the vicinity of the Obyan Beach in March. According to Army instruction director and CNMI Cadet LTC Robert Gay, this is the largest encampment in the CNMI dating back 18 years.

Korea travel agents heading for CNMI

The Marianas Visitors Authority will welcome eight travel agents from Seoul when they visit the CNMI from April 18 to 22. The purpose of this trip is to enhance the relationship MVA has with the agents while showcasing what the CNMI as a destination

has to offer. The agents will be visiting both Saipan and Tinian.

The participating agents will have representation from Asiana, Transportation News, Hana Tour, Mode Tour, YB Tour, Sejoong Tourmall, Tour 2000, Lotte Tour, Very Good Tour and

Redcap Tour. While here, they will see the tourist attractions on both Saipan and Tinian as well as inspecting hotels, restaurants and shopping on the islands. Supporting MVA members include Hafadai Beach Hotel, Mariana Resort & Spa, Tin-

ian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Palms Resort, Saipan Ocean View, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Restaurant 360, KTAS, and Saipan Grand Hotel.

"MVA believes that this familiarization tour will give the tour agents a first-hand experience of

the various attractions Northern Marianas has to offer," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This will help them promote the destination better to the consumers in Korea. This tour will serve

to strengthen our relationship with the major tour agents in Korea whose partnership is becoming more important as the number of Korean tourists to the islands is growing fast." (MVA)

Saipan native to head to Honolulu for duty

NEW LONDON, Conn.—U.S. Coast Guard Academy First Class Cadet Christine Dela Cruz Torres was one of 220 U.S. Coast Guard Academy first class cadets to learn what unit they will be assigned to after graduation at billet night here March 6.

Torres, who will earn a bachelor of science degree in Government and a commission as an ensign in the Coast Guard upon graduation, will report to U.S. Coast Guard cutter JARVIS, a 378-foot high-endurance cutter in Honolulu as a deck watch officer for her first tour of duty.

"It's a source of pride for me, knowing that I've come this far. The Academy has outfitted me with a free, top-notch education, and is setting me up to do the Coast Guard's missions—search and rescue, counter-drug operations, and maritime law enforcement, among others. I could not have come this far without the support of my parents Antonio and Consolacion DLC Torres of Capital Hill, Saipan," said Torres.

The assignment process started in February when cadets were given a list of available billets from which to choose. A number of factors are taken into account by the detailers at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C. during the assignment process. First and

foremost are the needs of the service, a cadet's major, gender constraints at a unit, a cadet's overall military precedence average and finally what a cadet put on their "dream sheet."

This year the majority, 52 percent, of cadets will receive a billet that was in their top three picks. Like every other year most of the graduating class will be headed to sea: 87 percent are assigned to afloat units, four percent will go to ashore units while nine percent will go straight to flight school. (USCG)



BELATED GREETINGS

To Leo and Mert Kani, belated happy birthday to grandma and happy anniversary to you and grandpa. Wishing you both many more blessed years. From the Scallem bunch with love.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Europe Highlights

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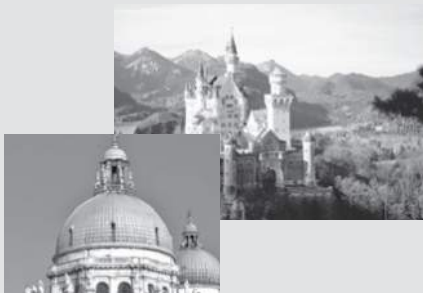
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Senate OKs charter change on land lease and Article 12

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate has passed a constitutional amendment extending the allowable leasehold interest for private lands in the Commonwealth from 55 years to 80 years.

The initiative, sponsored by Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, would also ease the requirements for corporations wishing to buy land in the Commonwealth. Under the initiative, a corporation would be able to own land with only 51 percent of its directors made up of people of Northern Marianas descent, and 51 percent of its stock owned by NMDs.

The Constitution restricts land ownership to persons of Northern

Marianas descent. And in order for a corporation to own land, 100 percent of its directors must be NMDs and 100 percent of its voting shares be owned by people of Northern Marianas descent.

The initiative is awaiting action in the House of Representatives, where it must be approved by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting. Once it clears the House, the initiative will be placed on the ballot for the voters' ratification.

The House is currently considering a separate initiative on the lease of private lands.

The House version, introduced by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, would extend the permissible term for private lands leases in the

Commonwealth from 55 years to 75 years. It would also allow for existing leasehold agreements to be renegotiated for a new lease term of up to 75 years.

The House Committee on Natural Resources, which is reviewing the initiative, is conducting a series of public hearings on the House initiative.

The Saipan hearings were held on April 2 and April 3, 2008.

Rota citizens will have the opportunity to submit oral testimony on the proposal, as well as related initiatives, on April 17 and 18, 6pm in the Rota Round House.

The Tinian public hearings will be held at 6pm on April 22 and 23 at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria.

Judge: The purpose in creating sanctuaries should be enforced

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that the Legislature's purpose of creating a sanctuary to gradually and naturally repopulate depopulated areas of the lagoon must be enforced in order to protect the islands' limited and precious resources.

For this reason, Manglona insisted on additional terms before accepting a plea agreement between the Attorney General's Office and defendant Zhen Hua Guo to deter the latter from committing the same crime.

Guo had pleaded guilty to taking fish and lobster from the Grotto sanctuary in Marpi.

After considering Manglona's concerns, the AGO and Guo agreed to accept additional terms imposed for the defendant's conviction.

Manglona sentenced Guo to six months in jail, all suspended except for the first nine days, with credit for the nine days he has already served.

LISS students take part in camp

The Ladera International School of Saipan saw an encouraging number of students that took part in a nine-day spring camp program on March 22-31.

The program focused on the ESL language and provided science experimentations as the subject of choice since LISS is in partnership with Missouri Academy to boost the school's performance in science and mathematics.

During the duration of the spring program, students from Japan, Korea and local children engaged in various learning activities as well as outdoor experiences under the new concept of "Edu-Tourism."

"A total of 35 students made the program a success and now LISS is programming its sum-

The judge placed the defendant on six months of unsupervised probation and ordered him to pay a \$25 court assessment fee.

Manglona required the defendant to return to court for a review hearing on May 21, 2008, to determine if he is complying with all the terms and conditions of his sentence.

The government, through the AGO, charged Guo and Shunjin Mo with taking wildlife in a sanctuary area after a Fish and Wildlife conservation officer caught them taking fish and lobster from the Grotto sanctuary on March 12, 2008.

Guo and counsel Glenn A. Jewell signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Tim Connor.

In accepting the defendant's guilty plea, Manglona said that Guo has pleaded guilty to a rarely committed offense.

Manglona said it is a crime that does not involve the infliction of any bodily injury to another person or the damage of property of another person.

mer sessions that will cater to all markets," LISS director Wayne Pangelinan said.

Targeting the markets of Japan, Korea, China and Russia are in the works. LISS also provides opportunities for local businesses to get their hands on the student population business LISS brings to the CNMI.

"Our efforts are made possible through collaborative partnership between the government and other private partners in the education and tourism field," Pangelinan said.

"We are fortunate that the support received from all parties has been exceptional and that we are moved to continue to make this new 'Edu-Tourism' concept work for the CNMI," he said. *(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)*



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Another exciting offer from the Grand

UMDA responds to 'diversionary lawsuit'

On April 4, Judge Juan Lizama of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands issued a written order in the lawsuit brought by United Micronesia Development Association against former director Robert Pfaff and a number of associates and corporate entities, finding that based on the evidence presented so far "it is clear that there is some wrongdoing that occurred" and that the action alleging fraud, misappropriation of funds and breach of fiduciary duty among other charges, should proceed.

Three days later, on April 7, a previously unknown entity called Laramie Fealty LLC, as trustee for G.E.T. Realty Trust (G.E.T. is one of the corporate entities named in the UMDA lawsuit and subject to Judge Lizama's order) filed a suit against UMDA, and some of its directors, in CNMI Superior

Court. That lawsuit has asked the court to believe that Pfaff and his associates are innocent victims of a plot by UMDA to abscond with the proceeds from the sale of the LaoLao golf property, which is one of the subjects of UMDA's original suit filed a year ago in April of 2007.

On March 19, 2008, Pfaff, who has been under a criminal tax indictment in New York for several years, was the subject of a new criminal indictment brought by the U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York that involves his activities while a director of UMDA.

UMDA president and CEO Russell Snow said: "After all the damage that has been done to the shareholders of UMDA by Mr. Pfaff and his associates over the past 10 years, I find it amazing that they have the nerve to create yet another shell company to make baseless ac-

cusations and brazenly take another run at the proceeds from the LaoLao golf course sale. We sued Mr. Pfaff and his associates in the first place to keep them from taking the LaoLao money, which is currently being held under the stewardship of the Superior Court."

Snow went on to say that "the court will decide who is entitled to the proceeds from the LaoLao sale. I really see the claim filed by Laramie Trust, whoever this entity is, as an unsophisticated attempt to divert attention from the wrongdoing of Mr. Pfaff and his cronies. These are meritless claims which I am confident will be addressed and resolved in the course of the litigation."

In April of 2007 UMDA filed a civil suit against Deloitte & Touche, along with Pfaff, John Larson, and a number of their associates and corporate entities, in Superior Court of the

CNMI to recover tens of millions of dollars in damages (plus punitive damages) for harm done to the company over a 10-year period ending in 2006. A preliminary injunction has been granted against the defendants to preserve assets rightfully belonging to UMDA. A trial date has not yet been set.

UMDA was founded in 1966 in Saipan. Over the years, UMDA has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including airlines, cable systems, and resort properties. UMDA's shareholders include the government or governmental entities of the CNMI, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and thousands of individual Micronesians and their families. In December 2007 UMDA announced the purchase from JAL Group of the Hotel Nikko Saipan, a 313-room luxury hotel in Saipan. (UMDA)

'Federalization bill meets federal govt interests'

From Page 1

The U.S. Senate, by a vote of 91-4, passed the bill. The measure now heads to the U.S. House of Representatives, where it has bipartisan support. The House is expected to concur shortly. Once the bill clears the House, it will be sent to the president for his signature, and will then become law.

In addition to federalizing CNMI immigration, the bill would also give the Commonwealth a delegate with limited voting powers to the U.S. House.

The CNMI provisions contained in S. 2739 are identical to the House version, H.R. 3079, which passed by the House in December 2007.

Akaka hailed the omnibus bill's "targeted provisions that address unique circumstances and issues occurring in the Pacific region."

After providing a brief description of the location and history of the Northern Marianas,

the senator from the island state said the bill would advance the interests of both the United States and the commonwealth.

"This legislation meets the Federal Government's interest in further implementation of the Covenant, securing our borders, and in the establishment of stable immigration and labor policies on which the CNMI can build its future," said Akaka, who had sponsored the companion bill to H.R. 3079.

He added that the federalization measure is sensitive to the current economic downturn in the islands.

"The legislation provides a basis to transition the CNMI to Federal immigration laws, while protecting the local economy. These provisions are crucial to address the immigration abuses that have persisted in the CNMI for the past 20 years," said Akaka.

For his part, Inouye said the CNMI immigration federalization is an issue "of special inter-

est" to him.

He said the measure "seeks to correct profound problems in local immigration laws that have enabled the import of low paid, short termed indentured workers to be brought to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI."

"Some were bought to work in garment factories. Others arrived in the CNMI, only to find that there was no job waiting for them, and were forced to find unpalatable means to work off their bondage debt," he added.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, the sole sponsor of S. 2739, also touted the CNMI provisions as a solution to longstanding federal concerns regarding CNMI immigration, labor, and law enforcement, which were heightened after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"This bill culminates 11 years of congressional and executive branch efforts to extend the U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI including the establishment of Federal border control as an-

ticipated by the 1976 Covenant agreement between the CNMI and the United States. The bill also includes special provisions to meet the special needs of the islands' economy," said Bingaman, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which had reviewed and recommended passage of the bill.

Bingaman also noted that the NMI delegate bill would provide representation to CNMI citizens, who have been unable to participate in the lawmaking process during the past 20 years they have members of the U.S. family.

The Fitial administration opposes the immigration bill, saying it is too restrictive and would further damage the CNMI's struggling economy.

The local government believes that a federalized immigration system would make it difficult for the CNMI to hire alien workers to fill jobs in the islands. It also fears the CNMI will lose its edge as a destination for Russian and Chinese tourists.

Potholes turn into craters due to severe weather

From Page 1

Now this city and others across the nation are left with more potholes than they have seen in decades. Add the fact that asphalt is an expensive oil-based product, and the cost of those repairs is higher than ever.

"It's been devastating," said City Manager Robert Betts. "We just don't know what to do."

Some road departments are even delaying major construction projects because they need to spend money instead on patching potholes.

In East St. Louis, the city is filling only the deepest and largest holes - leaving behind some that are large enough to break axles and puncture the tires of vehicles, including city ambulances, police cars and fire trucks.

This past winter was especially brutal in many parts of the country, bringing blizzards and heavy snow. The Midwest was particularly hard-hit, and one result is more damaged pavement.

Chicago already has filled 120,000 potholes since Dec. 1, about 50,000 more than during the same period last year. Motorists are finding their travels take longer and are more treacherous.

Chicago officials concluded that the north end of Lake Shore Drive, one of the most scenic routes in the city, was so pockmarked that the speed limit, which is normally raised from 40 mph to 45 mph in the summer, will stay at the slower speed limit.

"We haven't done that in at least 15 years," said Brian Steele, transportation department spokesman.

Indianapolis is using more

asphalt than in previous years and paying \$52 a ton instead of last year's \$40 price. The city is also searching for more money so crews don't have to cut back on roadwork.

"It's going to create potholes down the line because paying \$12 more a ton means we can pave less miles, and therefore the roads aren't in as good of shape," said Kit Werbe, spokeswoman for the city's Department of Public Works.

Petroleum is a key ingredient in the asphalt that gets spread on roads and poured into potholes. Mixed with sand or gravel, the oil serves as the glue that holds the other materials together.

In Des Moines, Bill Stowe, the assistant city manager for public works and engineering, said prices for asphalt and gasoline are climbing at exactly

the wrong time.

This winter, the city had to spend \$800,000 more than the \$3 million it had budgeted to clean up 58 inches of snow. Then there was \$70,000 to fill the potholes—more than four times the amount spent in recent years.

And the same heavy equipment used to clear the snow and fill the potholes also uses gasoline every time it hits the road.

"It's a perfect storm, a snow-and-ice nightmare," Stowe said. "No question this is the worst it's been in probably 10 years."

Des Moines had to reduce by 20 percent the number of miles of road it planned to resurface.

"We had to ramp back significantly on long-term maintenance work," he said. "We're out there patching because we don't have the money to do the overlay."

NW Islands gain more worldwide protection

Designation means ship activity near monument will be closely watched

By KIM FASSLER
THE HONOLULU ADVERTISER

Several atolls that make up the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument are named for ships that met their end on the reef there nearly 200 years ago.

Now, an internationally recognized designation promises added protection for the area's delicate ecosystem and the marine vessels that pass through it.

On Thursday, the entire monument, a 140,000-square-mile section of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, was named a "Particularly Sensitive Sea Area" by the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency concerned with international shipping regulations.

"This puts us on the international map," said 'Aulani Wilhelm, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration superintendent for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument.

Papahānaumokuākea is only the second marine protected site in the United States and the 11th in the world to earn the designation.

The announcement places the monument with Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Galapagos Archipelago in a small group of internationally recognized sites marked for special protection.

NOAA applied for the designation in mid-2006, around the time the area was established as a national monument by President Bush, Wilhelm said.

Beginning May 1, special zones called "Areas to be Avoided" within the "Particularly Sensitive Area" will appear on international nautical maps to direct ships away from dangerous areas or places of ecological significance.

The designation does not ban marine vessels from the zone outright, but requires notification from certain kinds of ships passing through the area, including U.S.-flagged vessels and ships involved in developing emergencies.

The reporting area begins 11.5 miles outside the monument's boundaries, and mariners must also announce when they cross into "Areas to be Avoided."

New bill seeks to hike power rates again

From Page 1

The Public Utilities Commission must set new rates within those 60 days. If the regulatory body fails to do so, the rolled-back rates will again come into effect.

The bill, which originated in the House of Representatives, will return to the lower chamber for approval of the amendment. If the House concurs, the bill will be sent to the governor for his signature. If not, a conference committee made up of House and Senate member will be formed to iron out disagreements and draft a compromise bill acceptable to both houses.

House Bill 16-79 would restore the previous rate structure that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. adopted in 2006 in a bid to cope with oil price increases.

The bill would overturn Public Law 15-94, which forced residential rates down to 17 cents per kWh in October 2007, and either reduced or scrapped other charges for

residential customers.

The 15th Legislature passed P.L. 15-94 amid pressure from consumers who were suffering from the sudden hike in power rates.

However, the Legislature's action hurt the utility's finances. According to CUC, the roll-back, compounded by the rising cost of fuel, has caused the utility to face a monthly shortfall of about \$1 million for fuel. For months now, the cash-strapped government has ended up paying millions of dollars in fuel subsidy to CUC.

This occurred even though the 17-cent rate remained in effect for one month only. In November 2007, CUC adopted emergency regulations that enabled the utility to adjust the power rates depending on fuel prices.

The Fitial administration has succeeded for the first time in organizing the Public Utilities Commission. It is counting on the regulatory board to set a rate structure that is fair to both CUC and the customers.

JUDGE

From Page 3

served only—nine days in this case. There were no other conditions to be imposed.

Manglona, however, rejected

the parties' disposition and expressed a need for additional terms.

Manglona said that based on the admitted evidence, Guo was found with fish and lobster at the Grotto sanctuary.

Wespac to take up Pacific fishery issues—again

HONOLULU—The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will convene its 141st meeting from 1pm to 5pm (Hawaii Standard Time) on Monday, April 14, 2008, at the Council Office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu and by teleconference with American Samoa (noon to 4pm Samoa Standard Time on April 14) and with Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island (9am to 1pm Chamorro Standard Time on Tuesday, April 15, 2008).

The Council will consider, and take action on, regulatory action items discussed at its 140th meeting and provide the public with an opportunity for comment on items listed as regulatory actions in the proposed 141st meeting agenda.

The council needs to meet again as all the actions taken during their last meeting on

Saipan and in Guam last month were invalidated due to a failure to post the meeting with the Federal Register, a federal requirement.

The documents and records for the 140th Council meeting action items are available on the Council's website at www.wpcouncil.org and at the Council Office.

The agenda for the 141st meeting includes:

■ **Pelagics Fisheries Actions:** Hawaii Swordfish Fishery Effort, Squid Permits, American Samoa Longline Program Modifications, CNMI Longline Exclusion Zone, American Samoa Purse-Seine Exclusion Zones, Guam Purse-Seine Exclusion Zones, CNMI Purse-Seine Exclusion Zones, Public Hearing and Council Discussion and Action

■ **Hawaii Bottomfish Fisheries Actions:** Main Hawaiian

Islands Bottomfish Risk Analysis, Public Hearing and Council Discussion and Action

■ **Program Planning, Research, and Executive/Budget Actions:** Annual Catch Limits, Community Development Program Regulatory Amendment to Allow Future CDPs, Public Hearing and Council Discussion and Action

For participants residing in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii and the continental United States, the 141st Council meeting telephone conference call-in number is 1-888-482-3560; Access Code: 5228220. For Guam and international participants, the call-in number is: 1-647-723-3959; Access Code: 5228220.

For more information on the Council meeting including a complete agenda and synopsis of the action items, go to www.wpcouncil.org or contact the Council by telephone at 808 522-8220, fax 808 522-8226 or email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov.

The Council is the policy-making agency for fisheries management in federal waters surrounding the State of Hawaii, Territory of American Samoa, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the

Mariana Islands and the U.S. Pacific remote island areas.

Council members (2008)

Designated state officials: Ignacio Dela Cruz, CNMI Department of Land & Natural Resources; Alberto Lamorena, Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans; Laura Thielen, Hawaii Department of Land & Natural

Resources; and Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources.

Designated federal officials: Bill Robinson, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; Jerry Leinecke, U.S. Fish and Wildlife; RAdm Sally Brice-O'Hara, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District; and Bill Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State.

Red flag up on five Saipan sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on five sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency said samples collected from Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, Hafa Adai Hotel, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Garapan Beach Drainage on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of the fecal

indicator bacteria enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Tinian and Managaha are as-

signed green flags.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha. The agency welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

Live-fire training on Farallon island

The U.S. military will be conducting live-fire training and aerial survey on Farallon de Mendenilla. The schedule dates and time are as follow:

■ April 12 – 15 from 8:30am to 1am, live-fire training
■ April 16 – 20 from 8:30am to 1am, live-fire training

■ April 21 from 5am to 7pm, aerial survey

■ April 22 from 1:30pm to 6pm aerial survey

■ April 23 from 8am to 11:30am, aerial survey

EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour op-

erators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for its patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.



Sunday Brunch

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 104Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Blood money

The Iraq war met the economy on Capitol Hill this week, and Republicans were spooked. They have reason to worry. Democrats racked up political points in their effort to show that the cost of the war is ruinous and that the Iraqis are shirking paying their fair share. Administration officials conceded that the run-up in oil prices had suddenly enriched the Iraqi treasury but insisted that Iraq has plans to chip in more for reconstruction. Still, Democratic lawmakers fumed that Iraq is running a large budget surplus and has \$30 billion stashed in U.S. banks alone, while the war's \$600-billion cost has pushed the U.S. deep into deficit spending.

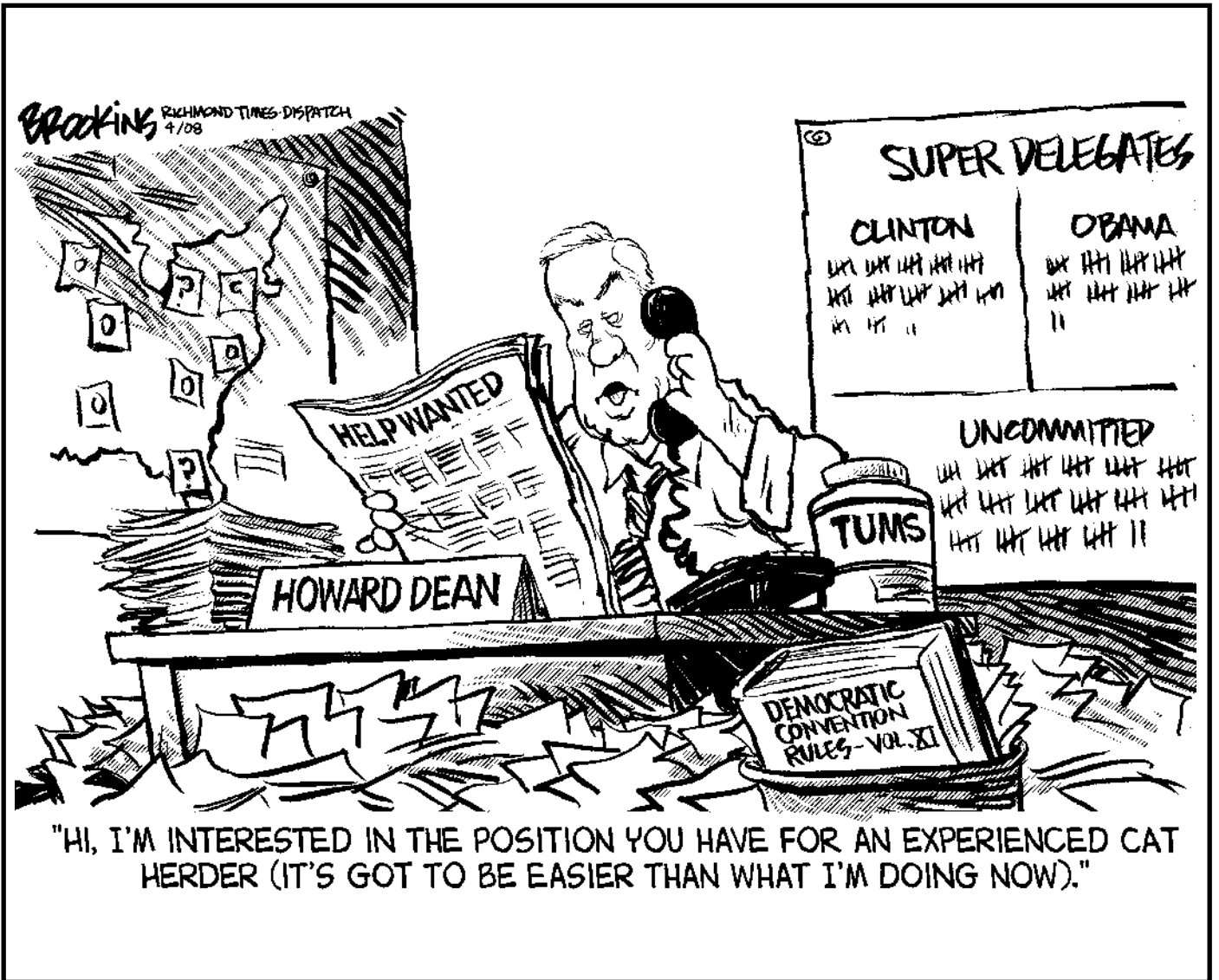
Republican House members startled many by joining in the tongue-lashing. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., has even introduced a bill that would bar President Bush from entering into a "status of forces" agreement with Iraq—a legal requirement for keeping U.S. troops there once the United Nations mandate expires at the end of this year—unless Iraq pays for "all of the costs of the services of the American Armed Forces." That will never become law under Bush, but it sends a message to Baghdad as well as the White House.

Bashing the Iraqi government for freeloading is a winner of an issue for Democrats and even more so for anxious Republicans facing re-election this year. Bush immediately smelled danger. He pushed back in a speech Thursday, arguing not only that Iraq was doing its part but that current defense spending, at 4.2 percent of our gross domestic product, is less than the 16 percent of GDP the U.S. spent during the Cold War or the 9 percent President Reagan spent to face down the Soviets. Moreover, it "pales when compared to the cost of another terrorist attack on our people."

Bush is right: Money isn't the real issue. If al-Qaida were using Iraq as a base from which to attack the U.S. homeland, as the administration has often warned, then we would have to fight it whatever the cost. And Americans would deem the sacrifice worthwhile. But neither al-Qaida in Iraq nor Iranian attempts to influence that country pose such a grave threat to the United States as to justify continuing a misguided five-year quasi-occupation of an Arab nation by 140,000 U.S. troops. The al-Qaida presence and Iran are problems, but they are essentially political problems that require political solutions only Iraqis can find.

The U.S. should continue to help train Iraqi forces while beginning a withdrawal of its own. We must withdraw not because the U.S. economic downturn has made many voters belatedly realize that the war is shattering our financial security, but because this war is not—and never has been—in America's best interest.

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"HI, I'M INTERESTED IN THE POSITION YOU HAVE FOR AN EXPERIENCED CAT HERDER (IT'S GOT TO BE EASIER THAN WHAT I'M DOING NOW)."

A 670-mile-long shrine to American insecurity

Last February, I found myself in the difficult position of explaining American insecurity to a group of Mexican undergraduates at a college in Matamoros, Mexico, just south of the border at Brownsville, Texas. I was taking questions after delivering a lecture on the long-term prospects of Mexican immigrants being accepted into U.S. society. A neatly dressed young man in the back stood up to ask a pointed question. "How," he said politely in Spanish, "could such a rich and powerful country be so self-centered as to build a wall on its border to keep people out?"

For a moment, I figured I could give him a simple answer: A vocal constituency wants to keep border crossers out at all costs; they operate under the easy rubric of law enforcement and homeland security. But he was asking a deeper question than that.

First, I discussed the historical cycle of the U.S. embracing and then rejecting the outside world, how we can sometimes be both generous and selfish to newcomers. I outlined the ongoing strains of xenophobia and racism in U.S. society. I mentioned the profound ethnic demographic shift in the U.S. and asked him whether he thought Mexicans would be any less "self-centered" if faced with a similar situation. And then I got to the hard part: having to explain why citizens of arguably the richest and most powerful nation on Earth could feel so put upon by the world.

Last week, the Bush administration's Department of Homeland Security announced that it would use its waiver authority to bypass more than 30 laws and regulations to finish building 670 miles of fence along our southern border by the end of the year. And if all that goes according to plan, I won't be the only American having to explain what this new border wall says about us as a people and a country. For the last 120 years, Americans have been able to point to the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of our collective pride in our immigrant origins. But future generations are more likely to point to the wall on our southern border as an altogether different symbol.

The most vocal supporters of the border wall like to portray the United States as a hapless victim of illegal immigrants. They act as if these people show up out of nowhere, as if they are not part of a long-established pattern. There's little recognition that the U.S. is just as responsible for creating the flows northward as is our eternally mismanaged southern neighbor.

We forget that as early as the late 19th century, we looked to Mexicans to build the railroads throughout the Southwest; that, in 1917, when Congress closed the door to European migration, it quietly made plans for Mexicans to fill our labor needs; that, beginning in World War II, we imported hundreds of thousands of Mexican guest workers who familiarized themselves with life in the U.S.

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Rodriguez, a columnist for the Times' opinion pages, is director of the California Fellows Program at the New America Foundation and author of *Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans and Vagabonds: Mexican Immigration and the Future of Race in America*. E-mail Rodriguez at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.



and shared their experiences and networks with their families and friends back home.

Yes, there is a difference between legal and illegal immigration, but sometimes one begets the other. When Congress began to reduce the number of legal visas available to Mexicans from an unlimited supply in the mid-1960s to 20,000 per year in 1976 (not including family reunification), it not only didn't stop the northward flow it had helped foster, it created illegal immigration.

My inquisitor in Matamoros, and others in the audience, seemed to acknowledge that the U.S. had no moral obligation to offer economic opportunity to the people of Mexico. But he did seem genuinely confused about why a nation so keen on seeing itself as a light for the world, and both admired and hated for its bluster and swagger, could cover behind a wall from a migration that it helped create. Mexicans—and Canadians for that matter—who live in our shadow and define themselves against casual displays of U.S. power can't fathom our anxieties.

"The average American," I said, "doesn't feel as powerful and entitled as the national image would suggest. In fact, in many ways both our economic system and our diverse origins encourage a strong sense of social insecurity. As individuals and members of groups, Americans are constantly jockeying for position and legitimacy. On an everyday level, they're not likely to feel as secure as you'd imagine."

But nearly two months later, I realize that I didn't fully answer the man's question.

So here it is: Although there has always been a flip side to American confidence and bravado, by building the wall—all three leading presidential candidates voted for it—we Americans have chosen to enshrine and showcase our insecurity. And whether you agree with the decision to build it or not, you have to admit that such a defensive act is an odd thing to do for a nation so proud of its global power and largess.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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By **JOEL STEIN***Special to the Los Angeles Times*

Stein is a columnist for the Times. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.



And I didn't approve this message

I've always thought giving money to a political candidate was stupid. If you care about the environment, give money to the Sierra Club, not to producing TV commercials about how a guy who might help the environment loves his family and flags.

So usually, I junk campaign contribution e-mails right away. But this week, I got one from New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, which interested me because Richardson dropped out of the presidential race in January. It read: "Please, as one last gesture to Bill Richardson's extraordinary leadership in our democratic process, help us close our books and live up to our obligations by making one last contribution to retire his campaign debt."

This was the most shameless request for money I'd ever gotten from someone not living in Nigeria. Richardson was asking me for money not so that my interests would be reflected during his presidency, but just because he's a good guy in a spot of bother. If this works, I might be getting e-mails for the rest of my life from Richardson. "It's Bill again. Bad run at the blackjack table, but I'm pretty sure I can get out of it :)" "Bill on the BlackBerry again. In the checkout line at Bed, Bath & Beyond, and it seems I went a little crazy with the Frette. Want to help, buddy?" "Dude, I totally want an iPhone!"

Curious, I clicked over to his contribution page and dialed the phone number. Which was no longer in service. The e-mail I sent to contributions@richardsonforpresident.com bounced right back. The guy really does need some money.

So I called Richardson to see if he could persuade me to help him out of the \$380,000 hole he'd dug. He didn't try all that hard. It seems that he's in no physical danger—none of his debts is to loan sharks, and he's not paying a vig on any of it.

"This is a very moderate debt," he said, noting that other failed campaigns also owe money. But he clearly thinks he still has political weight to make people want to buy his friendship: "Because I'm still going to be around as a governor, and possibly nationally, people remember me." He threw a fundraiser at a bar near Coors Field after the Rockies' opening-day game and pulled in \$60,000. Richardson's very smart strategy seems to involve requesting money from people so drunk that they might think he's still running.

When I pushed him for a reason for my donation, he said something about helping small-business owners who apparently weren't following the race and dawdled in sending bills for all those car rentals and political consultations. But when I asked which of these needy small businesses he was into the most, he said: "The biggest is charter jets."

I threw a bunch of awesome fundraising ideas at Richardson, but he had already done or considered most of them. He sold the campaign's furniture and computers, sold his e-mail list to other politicians and rejected one staffer's idea to let the highest bidder shave off his post-campaign Gore beard. I suggested that he switch his Barack Obama endorsement to Hillary Rodham Clinton because she paid off candidate Tom Vilsack's debt, but he just laughed. "I don't think she'd be very interested in helping me right now," he said. He also shot down my other idea: Ask his new friend Obama for some sweat-soaked campaign clothes to auction on eBay.

As far as repaying the debt himself, that isn't going to happen. Whereas Clinton lent her campaign \$5 million, Mitt Romney gave himself \$35.4 million, Dennis Kucinich lent himself \$150,000 and even Duncan Hunter pitched in a \$50,000 loan, Richardson only gave his campaign the \$2,300 individual donor maximum. "I barely was able to convince my wife to give the max. I said, 'Come on, we have a show to put on.'"

Impressed by his confidence, his integrity and this vague threat of being around "possibly nationally," I offered Richardson \$20 if he'd record my outgoing answering machine message. He immediately agreed. Unfortunately, callers to my house now hear a long speech about how they should give Richardson money instead of the little speech I asked for, which said that even though I wasn't home, he fully endorsed me. The guy is a pro.

Duncan Hunter, I hear you owe \$250,000. I've got a cell-phone with a voice mail that could use some work.

Cuppa tea with that S&M?

By **LAURA FROST***SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES*

On the heels of former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's resignation and the media frenzy over the delicious irony of a zealous reformer brought down by the kind of illicit activity he'd crusaded against, the British tabloid *News of the World* broke an even juicier story about Max Mosley, the patrician president of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, or FIA, which governs Formula One racing.

Mosley's entire five-hour escapade was caught on tape—direct to YouTube—in all its baroque details. Not just one prostitute, but five! Not just sex, but S&M! Not just S&M, but Nazi choreography, complete with SS costumes and bad German accents!

It all makes Spitzer's romp with a Jersey girl seem banal—and unimaginative.

Mosley is defiantly hanging in. "Many people do things in their bedrooms or have personal habits which others find repugnant. But as long as they keep them private, nobody objects," he sniffed in a statement.

Understandably, Mosley is trying to distance himself from the nature of the activities themselves, but it's precisely the specific acts that have gotten him into trouble. Several critics have said that it was not the prostitution but the alleged Nazi role-playing that they found repugnant.

An added irony is the fact that Mosley is the son of Oswald Mosley, the controversial founder of the pro-Nazi British Union of Fascists. A lot has been said about how Sir Oswald and Diana Guinness (one of the madcap Mitford sisters) were married in the presence of Joseph Goebbels and Adolf Hitler in the 1930s, and how the family was interned after World War II and driven out of Britain for Mosley's political activities. It's not hard to imagine how this family drama might have led Max Mosley to develop erotic tastes colored by shame, defiance, stifled anger and secrecy—privately staging a past that he had to publicly disown.

Mosley insists that the sexual exploits had no Nazi overtones. One of his defenders dubbed the uniforms "more Alcatraz than Auschwitz." To my mind, the crucial detail in this scandal is not the sartorial element but rather the post-orgy cup of tea. After five hours of flogging, costume changes and bilingual chastisement, Mosley breaks for a cup of tea in the nude with his former tormentors. (It's only a matter of time before some enterprising ad agency works this image into a campaign for Britain's national beverage.) In its very absurdity, Mosley's cup of tea is a powerful lesson at this moment of political sex scandals.

The mundane gesture of taking tea with his torturers/victims sig-

nals how sexual fantasy can be separate from the rest of life: At the end of the scene, Mosley puts down the paddle and takes up the Tetley's. At the same time, the episode shows the contorted and ironic ways in which political and historical baggage make their way into erotic life.

Mosley's marathon session with Mistress Switch is as British as the proverbial stiff upper lip. Not only has S&M had such an allure for generations of upper-class British men schooled in corporal punishment that it has been dubbed "the English vice," but the overtones of Mosley's antics are also in keeping with past British aristocrats who found Hitler and Benito Mussolini alluring alternatives to parliamentary democracy and the oh-so-dull rule of the mob. This is a country whose second heir to the throne dressed up as a Nazi for Halloween not long ago.

The Automobile Association of America, a member of the FIA, has questioned whether Mosley's sexual behavior compromises his ability to serve as an international figurehead for "the interests of mobility and motor sport." The more important question is, should we require peoples' sex lives to be consistent with the rest of their lives, or is sex an arena that is colored by—but can also be kept separate from—the ethical and moral imperatives of public life?

Mosley's cup of tea suggests the latter.

Last year, a startling documentary debuted at the Jerusalem Film Festival. Ari Libsker's "Stalags: Holocaust and Pornography in Israel" told the story of popular postwar pulp novels, known as "stalags," that featured busty blond female Nazis sexually tormenting Jewish men in concentration camps. (The Jews usually rose up and overthrew the Nazi vixens.) The books sold in huge numbers at Israeli newsstands in the 1960s, until a court case deemed them pornographic and banned their publication. All this unfolded alongside the awful testimonies of the Eichmann trial.

How should we explain these ironies in which historical traumas are played out in controversial sexual fantasies?

Both Mosley's video nasty and the stalags recast history as erotic adventures choreographed to render those in power powerless and, conversely, to "empower" those who were historically powerless. They show how political dramas can get replayed, expressed—or exorcised—through sex.

Whether we laugh or despair at Mosley's "Springtime for Hitler" session, we should be mindful that erotic enactments do not necessarily reproduce the power relationships they portray, and we should beware of putting fantasy on trial.

Frost is a professor of English at Yale University and the author of Sex Drives: Fantasies of Fascism in Literary Modernism.

Let the Games go on

I was born in Shanghai in 1961 and grew up during the Cultural Revolution. During my childhood, I saw my family lose our house. My grandfather, who studied medicine in England, committed suicide after he was wrongly accused of being a counterrevolutionary and a foreign spy.

Those were the worst of times.

Since the Cultural Revolution ended in the late 1970s, however, I have witnessed unimaginable progress in China. Changes that few ever thought possible have occurred in a single generation. A communist government that had no ties to the West has evolved into a more open government eager to join the international community.

A state-controlled economy has morphed into a market economy, greatly raising people's standard of living. It's clear that the majority of the Chinese people enjoy much fuller, more abundant lives today than 30 years ago. Though much remains to be done, the Chinese government has made rapid progress in opening up and trying to be part of the international community.

Last month I went to China and spent four weeks visiting Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong and Chengdu. The people I met and spoke with are proud and excited about the Beijing Games. They believe that the Olympics are a wonderful opportunity to showcase modern China to the rest of the world. Like many Americans, most Chinese people are disturbed by the recent events in Tibet. But after watching the scenes of violence and arson by the rioters, the Chinese believe that the government is doing the right thing in cracking down to restore order.

The Olympic torch is in California. In a resolution criticizing China, Chris Daly, a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, said that demonstrating against the torch relay would "provide the people of San Francisco with a lifetime opportunity to help 1.3 billion Chinese people gain more freedom and rights." To his credit, Mayor Gavin Newsom did not sign Daly's resolution.

By **JOAN CHEN***Special to The Washington Post*

The writer is an actress and director. She became a U.S. citizen in 1989.








This statement could not be further from reality. For one thing, the Chinese are a proud people. They want freedom and greater rights, but they know they must fight for them from within. They know that no one can grant them freedom and rights from afar. The stigma of Western imperialism and the Opium Wars also remains a strong reminder of the past, and Chinese people do not want their domestic policies to be dictated by outside powers. They also do not want the United States to boycott the opening ceremonies of the Games. The U.S. boycott of the 1980 Games in Moscow and the Soviet boycott of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles accomplished nothing. A U.S. boycott of the opening ceremonies in Beijing would be counterproductive for relations between the two countries.

For decades, anti-China human rights groups in Washington have spent millions of dollars denouncing China. To many Chinese, it seems that this lobby is the only voice that's acceptable or newsworthy in the U.S. media and to the U.S. government. But times are changing. We need to be open-minded and farsighted. We need to make more friends than enemies. Remember what a little ping-pong game did for Sino-U.S. relations in the 1970s? Let's celebrate the Olympics for what the Games are meant to be—a bridge for friendship, not a playground for politics.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Palau	T'Storms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼74
Kosrae	T'Storms	▲85 ▼73
Majuro	T'Storms	▲83 ▼74

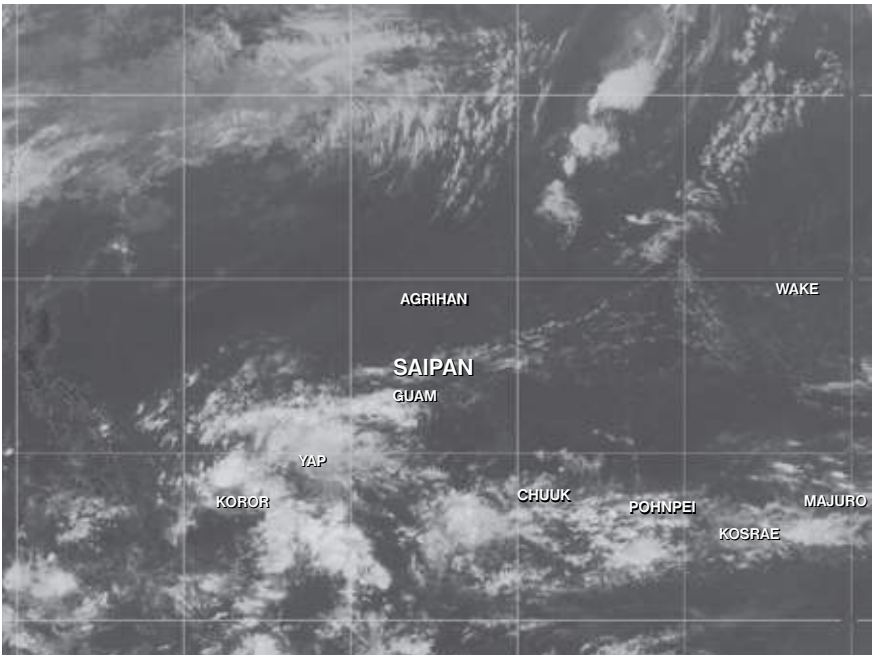
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲65 ▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲60 ▼46
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲83 ▼71
London	Showers	▲54 ▼41
Los Angeles	Hot	▲92 ▼58
Manila	Cloudy	▲94 ▼76
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲63 ▼50
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼59
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼42
Osaka	Rain	▲64 ▼55
Paris	Rain	▲54 ▼37
Pusan	Rain	▲68 ▼48
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼46
Salem	Cloudy	▲67 ▼41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼49
Seoul	Cloudy	▲63 ▼41
Tokyo	Showers	▲62 ▼55
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼38

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:09AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:09AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
12:15PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:22PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance centered west of Palau near 7N133E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within an area bounded by a line from 15N146E to 2N143E to 3N135E to 8N131E to 12N131E back to 15N146E. This area includes Koror and Yap and extends to just west of the Marianas. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers across Chuuk state between 2N and 8N from 144E to 155E and over Pohnpei, Kosrae and portions of the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line that extends from 5N155E to 6N176E. An upper-level low centered near 22N178E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of a line from 18N172E to 22N172E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:31PM
Monday	6:04AM	6:31PM
Tuesday	6:03AM	6:31PM
Wednesday	6:07AM	6:31PM
Thursday	6:02AM	6:32PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:26PM	1:43AM*
Monday	1:24PM	2:27AM*
Tuesday	2:18PM	3:07AM*
Wednesday	3:10PM	3:43AM*
Thursday	3:59PM	4:18AM*

*Following Day

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

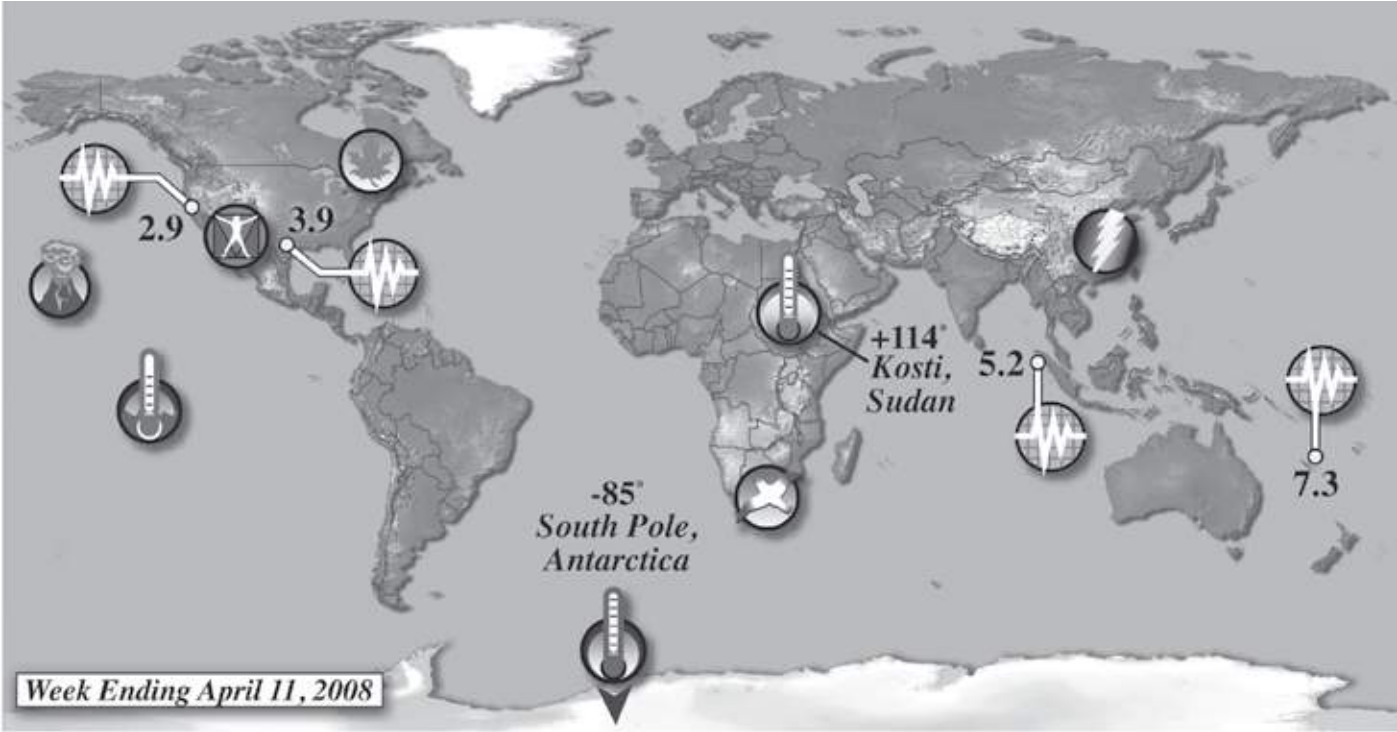
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services														
CATHOLIC														
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm														
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm														
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm														
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am														
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm														
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm														
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm														
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm														
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm														
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am														
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm														
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism														
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am														
PROTESTANT														
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm														
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm														
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm														
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm														
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions														
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm														
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)														
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Family Worship 3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at Parsonage 7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care														
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:00am (English)														
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto														
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday														
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm														
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)														
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm														
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm														
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620														
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm														
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)														
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm														
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm														
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm														
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Alfeta St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship
	9am	Sunday school												
	10am	Regular worship												
	6pm	worship												
Wednesday	7pm	worship												
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism														
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,						
7am-9am	English service													
7am-9am	Sunday school													
10am-12noon	English service,													
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S														

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



A Cooler Year

The head of the United Nations' weather agency says that the current La Niña ocean cooling in the Pacific will cause global temperatures to be lower this year than in 2007, bucking a trend toward increased planetary warmth. Michel Jarraud told the BBC that La Niña's world-wide cooling effects are likely to continue into the northern summer, depressing temperatures globally by a fraction of a degree. Weather disruptions caused by La Niña over the past several months have included the coldest winter temperatures in memory across snowbound parts of China, and torrential rains in Australia as well as across parts of Africa. Climate experts at Britain's Hadley Center for Climate Prediction and Research say the world can expect another record-warm year within the next five years or less, probably due to another episode of El Niño, the opposite phase from La Niña in the irregular cycle of ocean warming and cooling.

Volcanic Gas Alert

Plumes of toxic gas billowing from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano prompted officials to evacuate about 2,000 people from the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Levels of sulfur dioxide as high as 9.1 parts per million were measured within the park's boundaries —nearly five times higher than the 2 parts per million that triggers a declaration of the island's highest alert level. Lesser spikes in sulfur dioxide levels were detected around the city of Hilo, but no evacuations were ordered. The Hawaii Civil Defense Agency advised residents downwind of the volcano to close windows as a precaution against the toxic gas, which can cause breathing difficulties and irritate the eyes, nose and throat.

Bird Starvation

A shift to unseasonably cold and damp weather during late March appears to be the main reason tens of thousands of swallows died suddenly in one South African province. The sight of birds literally falling dead from the sky in Limpopo caused concern that the birds had been poisoned. But BirdLife SA executive director Gerhard Verdoorn said starvation and other nutritional issues killed the birds less than a week before they were due to migrate north to Europe. "Because of this (weather), the birds could not feed properly as it was too wet and too rainy for them to get the food," said Verdoorn. "They became hypothermic and hypoglycemic." Changing climate since about the year 2000 appears to be responsible for an increasing number of bird deaths in South Africa, according to Verdoorn.

Sino Hail Deaths

A freak hailstorm that lasted less than an hour killed at least eight people and injured 66 others in China's Hubei province. The Xinhua news agency reports that more than 10,850 houses collapsed, were flooded or lost roofs during the storm. Flooding or high winds also destroyed 56,000 acres of crops and uprooted thousands of trees and electricity poles.

Earthquakes

A series of undersea earthquakes as strong as magnitude 7.3 rocked the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, but none of them caused any damage or injuries. ■ Earth movements were also felt in northern Sumatra, southern Texas and northern parts of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Earthen Cure

Researchers from Arizona say they have literally unearthed a natural way to fight deadly "superbug" infections by administering a compound used for thousands of years as a remedy for infected wounds and other health problems. "Clays are little chemical drugstores in a packet," said study co-leader Lynda Williams, a geochemist at Arizona State University in Tempe. She and colleagues collected more than 20 different clay samples from around the world to find out which had the best antibacterial properties. They say they were able to identify at least three that killed or significantly reduced the growth of infective agents like MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), a bacterium that causes a flesh-eating disease known as Buruli ulcer, as well as E. coli and salmonella.

Solid Maple

A lingering freeze and heavy snow pack over eastern Canada have delayed maple syrup producers from tapping into the stream of liquid gold that usually flows each spring. Producers in Quebec and eastern Ontario say they have been forced to dig out pipes buried beneath up to 6 feet of snow, and freezing temperatures mean that the sweet sap is still rock-solid inside the trees. This year's difficulties follow the worst season for maple production in 40 years in 2007. Producers say an extended period of temperatures just below freezing at night and just above freezing each day would unleash a flow of sap strong enough to replenish depleted maple syrup stockpiles.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Legally blind golfer, 85, gets ace

GREEN VALLEY, Ariz. (AP)—An 85-year-old legally blind golfer from southern Arizona made a hole-in-one this week on a par-3 course. Robert Dunham accomplished the feat on the third hole at Tortuga in Green Valley. Playing with a group of fellow blind veterans enrolled in a Veterans Affairs health care system program, Dunham's volunteer assistant lined him up with the ball, handed him a 9-iron and stepped back. Dunham swung through the ball, hit it squarely and it landed softly on the green, taking one hop before nestling into the bottom of the cup. Dunham's group erupted into a cacophony of cheers and high-fives. The World War II vet's first reaction? "I thought they were kidding me," Dunham said. "I told them, 'You guys better not be pulling my leg.'"

Drivers flood station for 35 cent gas

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—Traffic was backed up and police were called to control the crowd after a Wilmington gas station accidentally set the pump price at 35 cents a gallon. The Wilming-

ton Star-News reported Friday that hundreds of drivers flooded a BP station for the cheap gas after the price dropped around 9 a.m. Thursday. Station employee Shane Weller said the price for premium gasoline was supposed to be \$3.35 a gallon. He complained that customers paid the cheaper price all day without saying a word. It was all the extra traffic that led station employees to the mistake around 6 p.m. They found it after calling their district manager, looking for permission to changing the price as a way of stemming the flow of customers.

Police tip line: How do I thaw a turkey?

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—The Spokane police and sheriff's departments operate a tip line to record information from callers about crimes. It gets about a dozen calls a day, but not all are tips. The sheriff's department said people call with questions about boating regulations and what businesses are open on holidays. Other questions on the police tip line asked how to thaw a 12-pound turkey, how long to wait after a death to read a will, and, "Who can I get to come over and pick up my claw-foot bathtub?"

Good Housekeeping

Barry Dixon, making design precisely personal

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The 1907 estate in Warrenton, Va., where designer Barry Dixon lives, works and raises chickens, goats and llamas is a visual banquet, a rich layering of old and new, formal and informal, objects that are rare and those that are not: weathered French garden orbs, bowls of Granny Smith apples, books Dixon read as a child in Tennessee and armloads of willow branches from the garden. Engravings of de Medicis mingle with flea market candlesticks. One favorite touch: antique apothecary jars filled with ordinary lemon drops from Target.

"The important things in a room are the essence of what you hold valuable," says Dixon, 49. "Things that define who you are. A room should start a conversation before people actually start exchanging words."

Dixon's philosophy is rooted in a confident mix of high and low: "I'm not shy about spending a small fortune on something rare that has character and personality," he says. "But I must earn the right to do that by supplanting it with other, less expensive things. It takes the pretension out of the mix."



THE WASHINGTON POST

Beautiful objects are in abundance, from a bold French armillary with a crusty paint patina on a five-foot pedestal to a collection of glass and wood orbs, in the music room at designer Barry Dixon's Warrenton, Va., home. Dixon uses all the space in a room, not just the floors, and likes to display objects at all heights.

Headboards in unusual shapes are an inexpensive way to add drama, Barry Dixon says. The arched panels in the guest bedroom of his Warrenton, Va., home are made of plywood covered in cotton batting and inexpensive striped cotton.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Barry Dixon used pale blue Skylight paint from Farrow & Ball in this Venetian-themed bedroom at his Warrenton, Va., home. "I like to have color on the ceiling, especially in a bedroom because you wake up and you want to see the whole room saturated with color."

THE WASHINGTON POST



Barry Dixon's look, and how to get it

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

ACCESSORIES. Beautiful objects in abundance: Barry Dixon uses all the space in a room, not just the floors, and likes to display objects at all heights. "Think in three dimensions, not just two," he says.

COLOR. Dixon decorates rooms around color themes. "Swathing a room in one pattern makes a small space look bigger," he says. A strong color can unify disparate items.

COLLECTING. A tapestry of color moves from room to room. The plates on the oak plate rack in his kitchen — in gold, yellow, orange and chocolate brown — reflect colors of other rooms on the main floor.

PAINT. Dixon likes to paint the walls and ceiling of a room the same hue to expand the space, bring the eye up and make the room look taller. "I like to have color on the ceiling, especially in a bedroom because you wake up and you want to see the whole room saturated with color."

FABRIC. Using fabric to upholster walls and headboards softens the room and absorbs sound, especially when people are trying to sleep. Dixon says headboards in unusual shapes are an inexpensive way to add drama.

MANTELS. Dixon often anchors a mantel with a large object at each end. Between them, he always places an odd number of items for a more interesting sense of balance.

ART. Art hung with frames touching makes a stronger impact. Small prints that might look insignificant alone are given a commanding presence.

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Here comes the sun

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

It's warm, inviting and cheerful. What's not to love about yellow?

Designers say—somewhat surprisingly, considering how widely it is used—that yellow can be a tricky color on a wall. “Yellow is the hardest color to get right, without question,” says New York designer Alexa Hampton. “As mellow a yellow you think you select, it's always much louder than you think it will be.”

“Above all other colors, it's inclined to get more intense on the wall,” says Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute and author of “Color: Messages and Meanings.” Yellows with even the slight-



THE WASHINGTON POST

It's warm, inviting and cheerful. What's not to love about yellow? Circa pillow in Canary from Z Gallerie (\$39.95, www.zgallerie.com).



THE WASHINGTON POST

Surya coasters from Burke Decor (\$30 for a set of four, www.burkedecor.com).

est green undertone, she says, can go greenish on the wall, especially if the room has lots of windows.

If you want to go yellow, Hampton advises sticking with the topmost choices on the paint decks because these are typically the palest shades. Paint a large sample, she says. If it's too bright, mix in a bit of your trim color. And consider off-white paint colors, too. Some of the creamiest shades turn out to be just yellow enough.

Love the color but aren't sure you want to commit to paint? Introduce yellow into the room with a cheery fabric or patterned pillows, a graphic area rug or a floral lampshade. Even these subtle touches are sunny.

Cleaning storm window and door hardware

KITCHEN MAGIC

Multicolored Slaw

We used a bagged coleslaw mix (containing shredded green cabbage and carrots) and bagged shredded red cabbage to make this colorful slaw that takes just minutes to whip up.

2/3 cup red wine vinegar
1/4 cup olive oil
2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon celery seeds
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 bags (16 ounces each) shredded cabbage mix for coleslaw
1 bag (10 ounces) shredded red cabbage

1. In large bowl, with fork, mix vinegar, oil, sugar, salt, celery seeds and pepper until blended. Add cabbage mix and red cabbage; toss well to coat with dressing.
2. Cover and refrigerate coleslaw at least 1 hour or up to 1 day to allow flavors to blend. Makes 12 servings.

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By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
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Q: I just switched out my storm windows for screens, and now I need to clean the grime—dirt, old paint and so on—from the nooks and crannies of those storm windows. It's a pain. Do you have a faster way to clean this stuff?—A Reader, via e-mail

A: Cleaning handles, hinges and the grooves inside storm windows is a real pain at any time. But cleaning and storing them properly each spring will ensure smooth-functioning storm windows that last for many years.

One way to ease the amount of work involved is to create your own soaking and cleaning solution for storm windows (and any grimy window or door hardware that needs it).

First, remove hinges, screws and handles from the storm windows. Place the windows themselves in an open area where you can spray water on them.

Fill an old saucepan with about a quart of water and add four tablespoons of baking soda. Heat the water to a simmer and

make sure the baking soda has dissolved fully. Place all the small hardware into the saucepan and continue simmering for 20 minutes or so. Remove the hardware using a slotted spoon or mesh scoop, let cool and scrub with steel wool.

Let the reserved water-baking soda mixture cool until you can touch it, then take the saucepan out to where the storm windows are waiting. Lay them out on a clean, dry surface (or even on an old tarp). Ladle the mixture over the grooved sides and let sit for a few minutes; then scrub with steel wool or a wire brush and rinse with clear water (for a faster rinse, spray them down with the garden hose). Stand upright to dry, reattach the hardware and store in a safe place until next fall.



HOME TIP: Because the metal frames and hardware for storm windows usually are made of aluminum, avoid using acidic solutions—like lemon juice or vinegar—to clean them.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

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- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
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- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

The Good Life



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dance instructor Lauren Hoskins, center, teaches the class a routine. The Performing Arts Studio West offers daily acting, dance and music training and has a studio to record students' songs.

ability. "I know what this population can accomplish," he says. "They respond in such a positive way when you treat them with respect."

So in 1997, when the day program Paizis administered shut down, the old studio dream resurfaced, prodded with some urgency by his recent joblessness. He came up with a proposal for the long-imagined studio, only this one would be for actors, dancers and musicians with developmental disabilities.

Mike Danneker, executive director of the Westside Regional Center, which is responsible for programs for people with cerebral palsy, mental retardation and autism spectrum disorders, loved the idea. "John went from training people and having a day program to getting people jobs in the industry," Danneker says. "Sometimes I just sit here and scratch my head and say, 'My God, how does he do it?' He's not just giving them something to do, singing 'Kumbaya.' We're talking about getting them a job." Sometimes a seri-

citizen centers, where a confined and isolated audience always appreciated anyone who came in.

As their numbers grew, they staged their own productions. Word got out that the performers were good. Growing numbers of disabled performers, or people who wanted to learn, wanted in on the program.

Meanwhile, Paizis expanded the staff. "I wanted people who didn't have a lot of prior experience with this population," he says. "I wanted people who had experience with the industry."

He added as music director Joe Seabe, a songwriter who once had a band called SicVicki. About 50 of his songs can be heard on various television shows and movie soundtracks.

Together, Seabe and the class write songs. He plays a few chords. People call out how it makes them feel. Then they look for a hook, a theme. "They just start throwing down lyrics," he says, the same process any professional songwriting team uses.

Making it all pay off is Carmel Wynne, director of talent.

Dreams are realized in arts program

By SUSAN BRINK

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HOLLYWOOD—"Anybody here ever have a dog?" Raymond Parker, an actor, stand-up comic, writer and acting teacher, calls out to his class. The hands of roughly 20 of the 30 students fly up. "Did you ever wonder what your dog was thinking?" he asks.

Let's face it. Who hasn't?

So he tells the three students on stage that they're all playing dogs, two-legged dogs. "Don't close your mind," he says. "Show me what they're thinking."

It's as though a light bulb goes on over the head of student Nick Weiland, and he laughs, and says, "Yeah. I love it," and starts claiming his territory on stage as royalty: Prince, king of the dogs.

From the curb, a building in Inglewood looks like a warehouse, with barred and heavily curtained windows and dingy glass on the front door that allows only scant light inside. The building is uninviting.

But walk through to the open space inside, and it's a hive of cheerful activity. About 30 people are practicing dance steps

in front of a wall of mirror. In the back room, another 30 or so are taking turns at improvisation skits. And in the tiny music studio, a couple of students are listening to chords and dreaming up lyrics.

The place is Performing Arts Studio West, a privately owned and state-funded acting, music, dance and production studio staffed by entertainment-industry professionals. The studio's clients are people with intellectual disabilities, including Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, mild retardation and seizure disorders. It's the realized dream of John Paizis and Randy Klinenberg, longtime friends and entertainment professionals.

Over the decades—especially when between jobs—the two of them fantasized. "We wanted our own studio," Klinenberg says.

Now they've got it, though not exactly the studio they envisioned. Rather, it's the one that opportunity presented, and they say it's even better than the dream.

Paizis is the founder and director, and Klinenberg is the managing director of the studio, a training and career management center for performers with intellectual disabilities. It's a one-of-a-kind shop in the entertainment and disabilities services industries: Where other centers in the county and the state might have music or dance therapy, the Inglewood studio has daily acting, dance and music training. It has a production studio to record the songs clients write and a management team that places people in jobs in the entertainment industry.



Students act in a class at Performing Arts Studio West in Inglewood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Able to accommodate 60 clients, it always has a waiting list.

"It's the only place like it in the country, possibly the world," Paizis says.

Show business was always Klinenberg's career. He was a radio deejay, a sound engineer, a videographer, a rock 'n' roll band manager. Paizis acted in summer stock theater in Connecticut, had rock 'n' roll bands called Kid Twist and World Affairs and once was the voice of a Jim Henson ostrich puppet.

But Paizis often depended on day jobs to pay the rent—and those bread-and-butter jobs reflected his other love: working with people with disabilities. He was a special-education aide, then an instructor and, finally, an administrator at a day program. His mother had been a special-education teacher; his cousin had a developmental dis-

ous job, such as a role on "ER" or "Saving Grace."

Except Paizis, no one who works at the studio had previously worked with people who are mentally challenged. "When John put this together—I'll be honest with you—I was put off by this population," Klinenberg says. He'd never been around people with developmental disabilities, and the little he knew about them largely reflected society's discomfort with those who look and act differently from what's deemed "normal."

Meeting aspiring, disabled performers put an end to that view. "I'm so attracted to people with talent, by seeing something inside their soul," he says. "These people are talented."

The program began with five clients. They practiced song, dance and improvisation. They occasionally went out to senior

She came to L.A. from North Carolina to become an actress. Now she makes sure the studio's clients have professional head shots and resumes. She monitors casting notices and arranges auditions. She, or other staff members, stick with the clients during auditions and filming. "They come in with their own entourage," she says.

Increasingly, she finds herself answering incoming calls from people looking for talent.

"This is the happiest place ever," Seabe says. He knows his words might feed a kind of saccharin stereotype about people who are mentally challenged. But he can't help it, he says. It's how he feels.

"Every morning I come through that door, and I get greeted and hugged," he says. "You can't bottle that. It's real. It's all real."

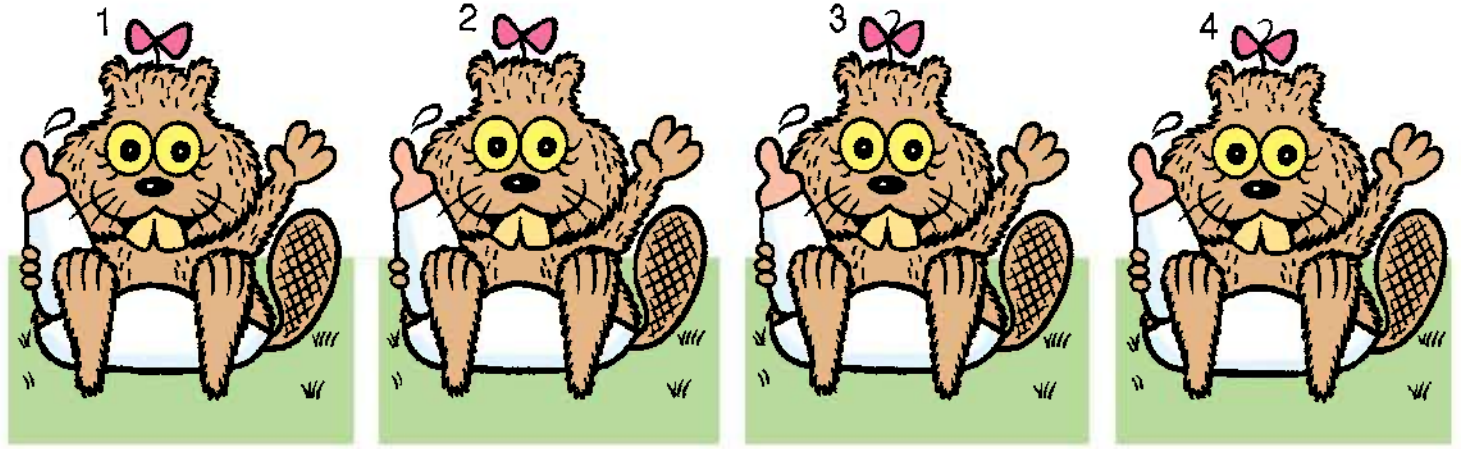


LOS ANGELES TIMES

Talent manager Jennifer Ballinger, right, hugs Michelle Marks at Performing Arts Studio West.

Bog Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and COMICS for KIDS

Which two baby beavers are exactly alike?



Answer -- Numbers three and four.

The diving bell that Slylock Fox and Max Mouse are using has snapped its chain. A rescue team can reach Slylock and Max within 20 minutes, but there's only 15 minutes of air left. What will Slylock do?

Solution -- Slylock will remove the sunken car's tires and release their air into the diving bell.

More Slylock Fox at www.kidcartoonists.com



Find six differences between these panels.



www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Bat, rat, moon, belly button, fish skeleton and tree.

New! The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a running stick figure



YOUR DRAWING



Today's terrific drawing is by Ariene Ramirez, age 12, of Mesa, AZ. Send your drawing to www.kidcartoonists.com

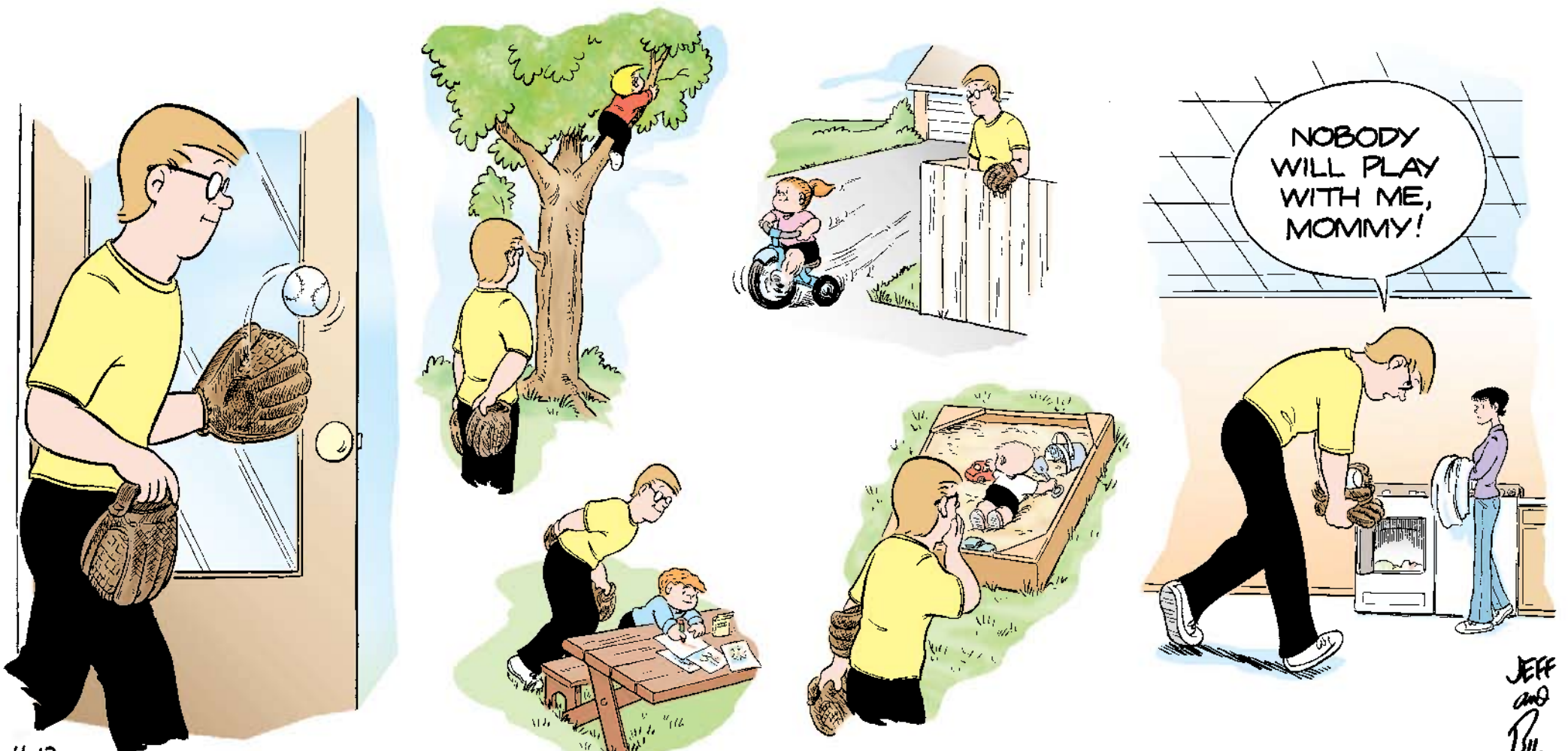
Tom Sietas held his breath underwater for a world record of ...

- a) 3 minutes, 20 seconds
- b) 5 minutes, 8 seconds
- c) 8 minutes, 47 seconds
- d) 9 minutes, 8 seconds
- e) 12 minutes, 9 seconds

Answer -- d)

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bill Keane

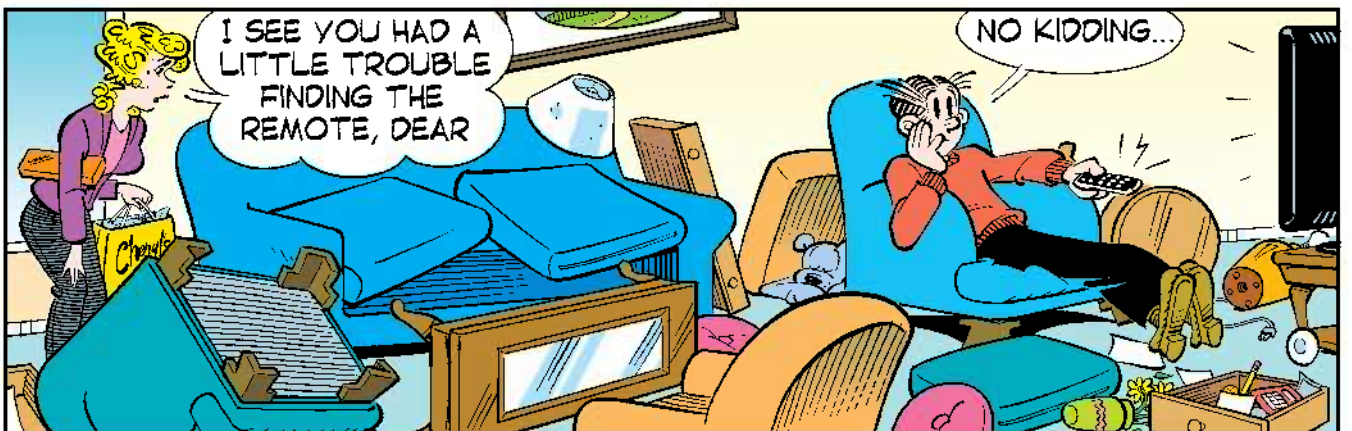
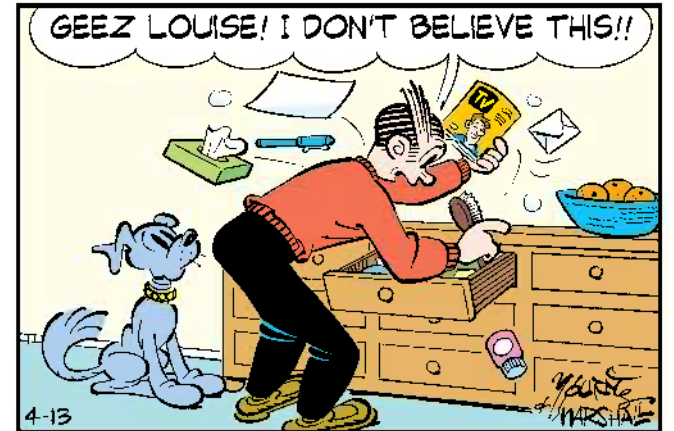
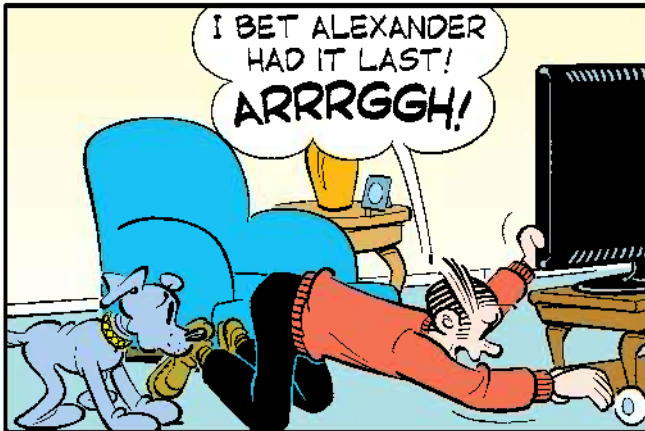
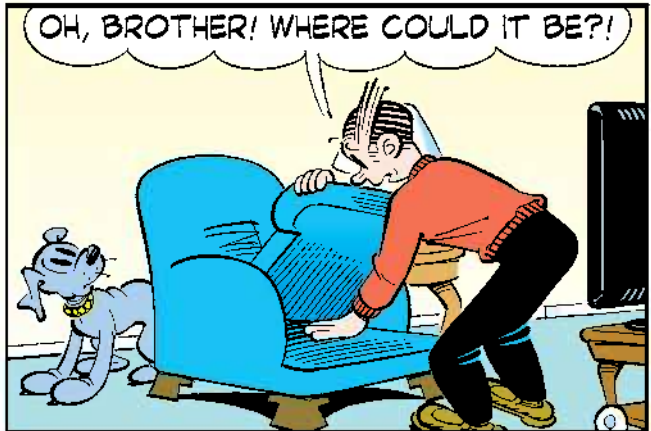
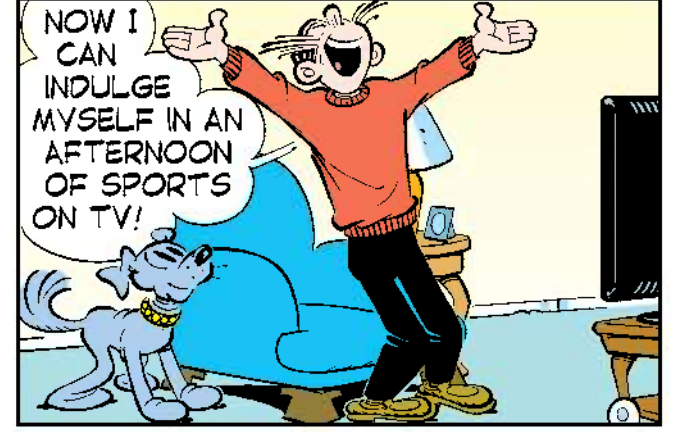
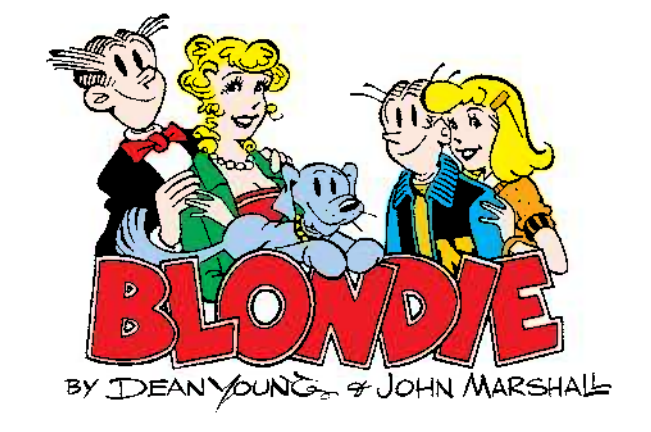
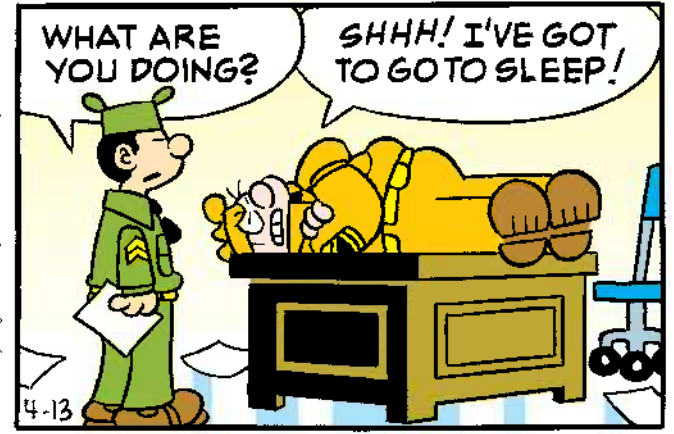
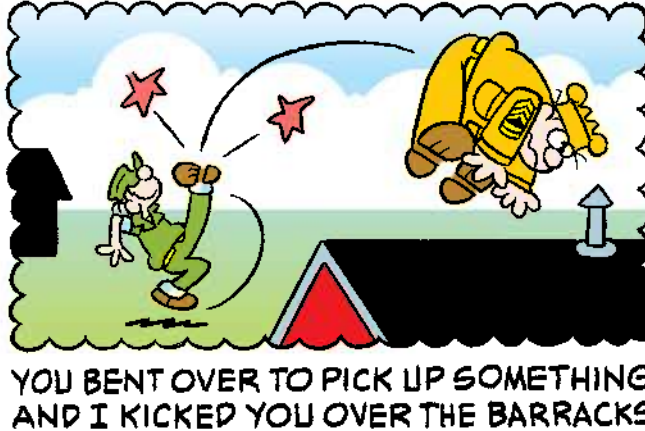
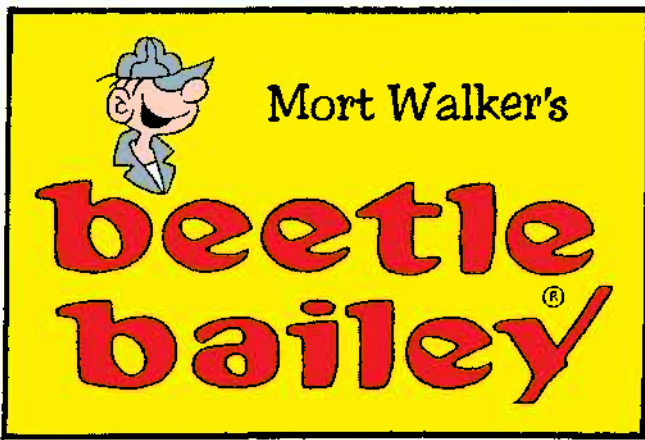


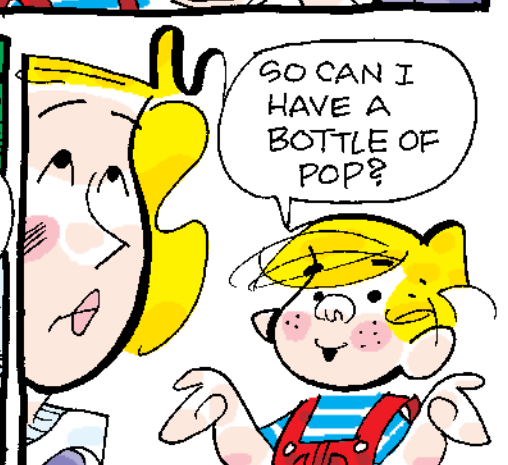
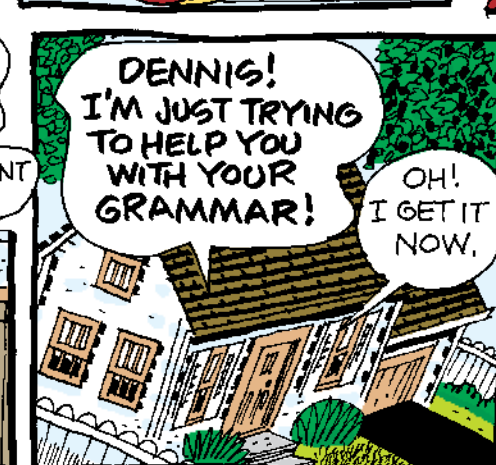
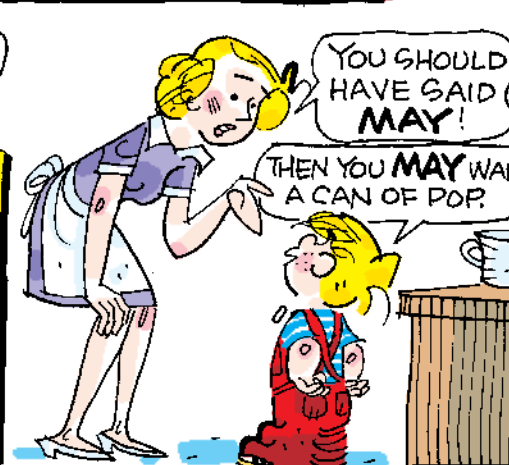
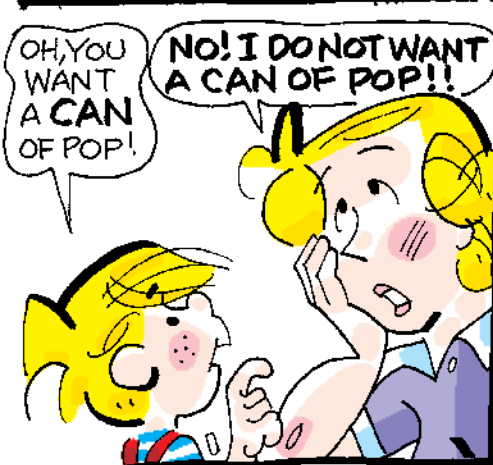
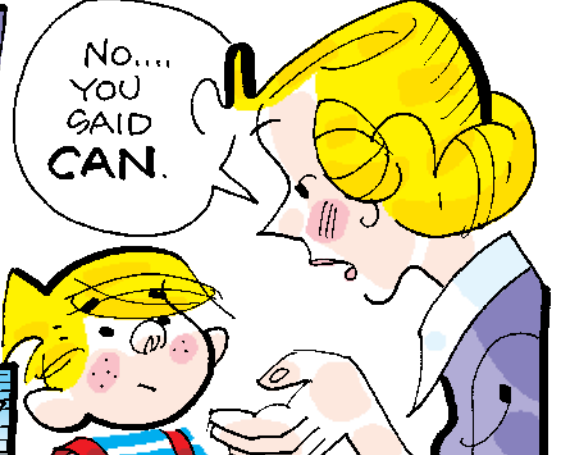
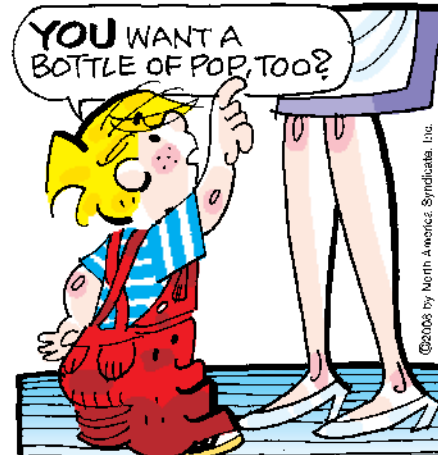
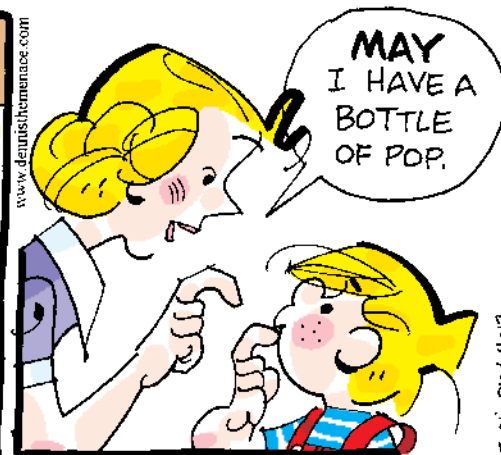
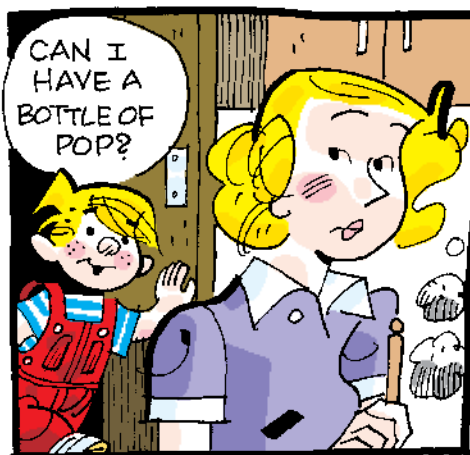
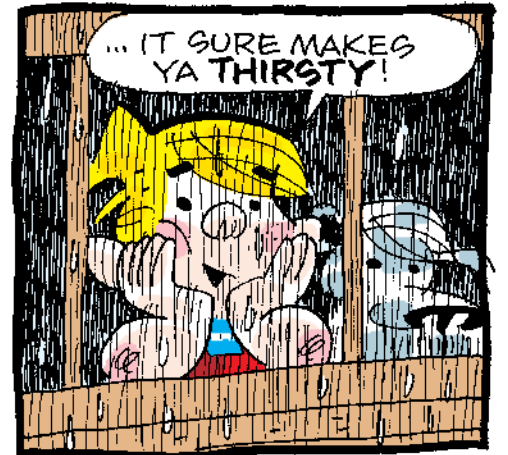
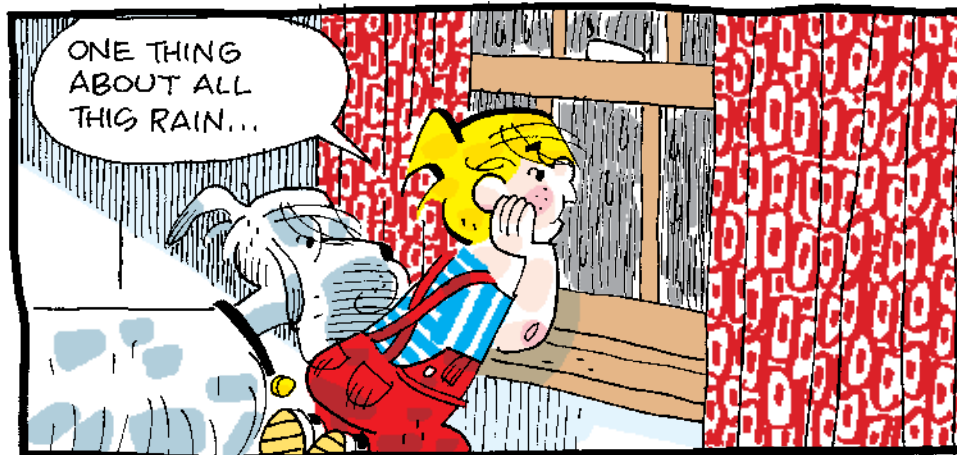
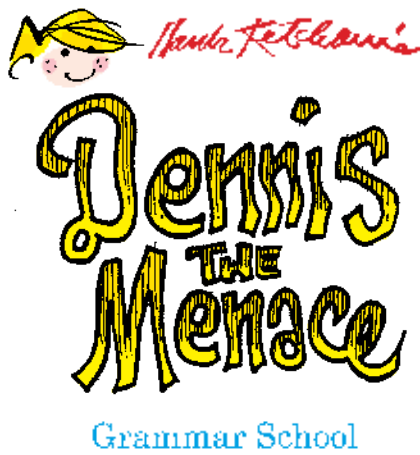
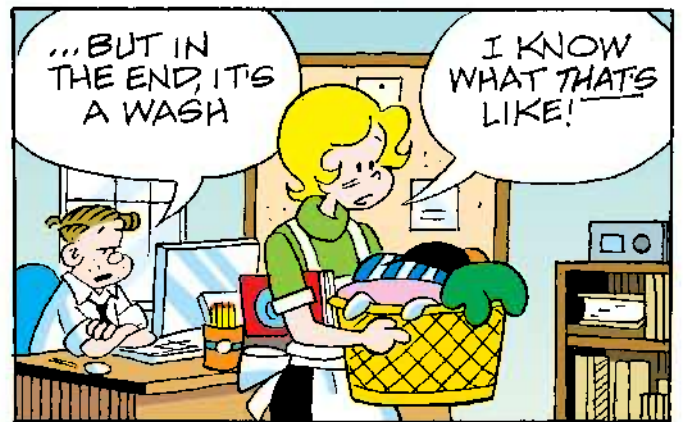
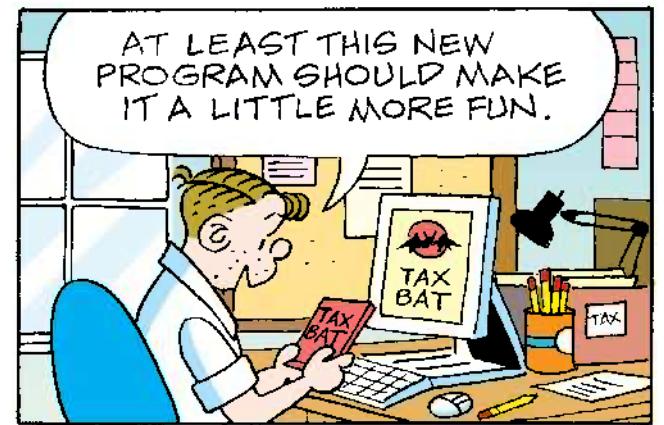
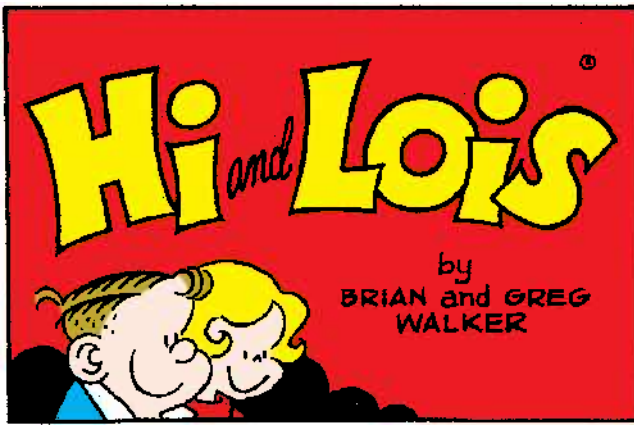
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BABY BLUES™

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Rumors of a change in the workplace could make you a mite uneasy about going ahead with implementing your ideas. Best advice: Ignore the talk and proceed as planned.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Everyone has an opinion on how to handle a recent business suggestion. Thank them for their advice. Then go ahead and follow your own fine instincts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) While home is your main focus this week, new issues in the workplace need your attention as well. Take things step by step. Pressures ease in time for weekend fun.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Be less rigid when handling a relationship problem. You might believe you're in the right, but try to open your mind to the possibilities of facts you're currently not aware of.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas run at a hectic pace throughout much of the week. But by the weekend, the Lions' Dens become a purrrfect place for you Fine Felines to relax in.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Change is favored early in the week. This should make it easier for you to reassess your plans for handling a troubling professional relationship. Good luck.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A suggestion from a colleague could give your professional project that long-needed boost. Meanwhile, someone close to you still needs your emotional support.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Before complying with a colleague's request, check to see that the action benefits all, not just one person's agenda. Continue firming up those travel plans.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your social life is on the upswing, and the only problem is deciding which invitations to accept. Enjoy yourself before settling down for some serious work next week.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) With your creative aspects on high, you might want to restart your work on that novel or painting you put aside. Your efforts will bring a surge in your self-esteem.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) While you're generous with others, be sure you're not overlooking your own needs. Take time to assess your situation and make adjustments where necessary.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Being applauded for your achievement is great. But watch out that you don't start acting like a star. It could lose your valuable support with your next project.

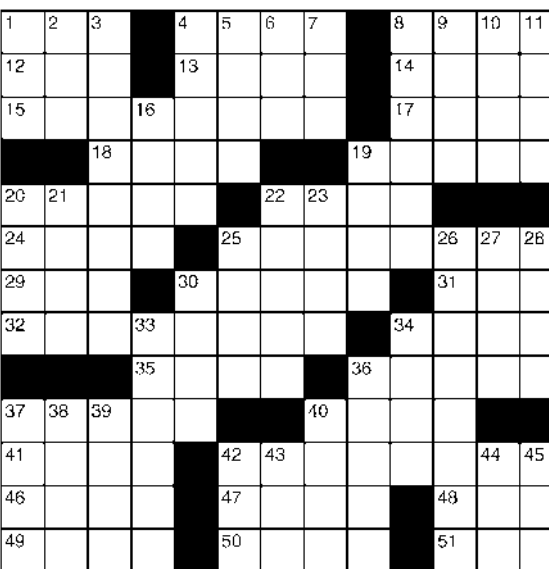
BORN THIS WEEK: Your strong belief in justice, along with your leadership qualities, help you protect the rights of others.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Rotten
- 4 Sax range
- 8 Stare
- 12 Quarterback Manning
- 13 Frog's cousin
- 14 Responsibility
- 15 Move
- 17 Lairs
- 18 Blueprint
- 19 Knife eponym
- 20 Frizzy hairdos
- 22 Jet forth
- 24 Satiated
- 25 Waste
- 29 Clergyman's title (Abbr.)
- 30 Becomes rancid
- 31 Anger
- 32 Model
- 34 Largest of the seven
- 35 On the rocks
- 36 Put one over on
- 37 Doctrine
- 40 Lima's land
- 41 Hodgepodge
- 42 Send
- 46 Afflictions
- 47 Roughly
- 48 Unfrozen glaze
- 49 Farewell
- 50 1/748 horsepower
- 51 "The 5,000



DOWN

- 1 Foundation
- 2 Frazier foe
- 3 Belie
- 4 Hold-up man?
- 5 Bank transaction
- 6 Middle X?
- 7 Praise in verse
- 8 Sink
- 9 Freshly
- 10 New Mexican tribe
- 11 Being, to Brutus
- 16 Stratagem
- 19 Arthur and Lillie
- 20 Farm measure
- 21 Show off the biceps
- 22 Team
- 23 Sound of contentment
- 25 Unrivaled
- 26 Called into question
- 27 Huron neighbor
- 28 Peruse
- 30 Animal protection org.
- 33 Champagne + O.J.
- 34 Emanation
- 36 Station
- 37 --yourself
- 38 Earthenware pot
- 39 Coated with gold
- 40 "Hey, you!"
- 42 DuPont rival
- 43 George's brother
- 44 Jam ingredient?
- 45 Shack

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top ten

Rainiest U.S. Cities

1. Mobile, Ala.
2. Pensacola, Fla.
3. New Orleans, La.
4. West Palm Beach, Fla.
5. Lafayette, La.
6. Baton Rouge, La.
7. Miami, Fla.
8. Port Arthur, Texas
9. Tallahassee, Fla.
10. Lake Charles, La.

Source: WeatherBill, Inc.

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

W	A	R	N	G	Y	M	S	T	O	W
O	R	E	O	L	E	I	C	U	J	O
K	I	E	V	I	N	T	H	E	R	A
S	A	D	I	S	M	T	E	N	N	I
C	A	P	T	W	I	T				
S	A	B	E	R	S	A	W	C	A	R
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M	O	O	T	A	G	E	B	R	A	E
O	N	L	Y	R	O	D	Y	E	L	P

United States

ACROSS THE NATION

Obama says some voters are angry, bitter

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP)—In the midst of an assault from his rivals, a defensive Barack Obama said Friday that many working-class Americans are angry and bitter over economic inequalities and have lost faith in Washington—and, as a result, vote on the basis of other issues such as gun protections or gay marriage. The Illinois senator's analysis of what motivates working-class voters came after chief rival Hillary Rodham Clinton accused him of looking down on such voters. Clinton rebuked Obama on Friday for similar remarks he made privately last Sunday to a group of donors in San Francisco.

Threats close down Ill. Catholic college

CHICAGO (AP)—Officials of a Catholic liberal arts college shut it down indefinitely Friday and told students to leave campus after threatening messages were found scrawled in the bathroom of a freshman dorm. Graffiti were found twice this month at St. Xavier University's Regina Hall, including a message Thursday that read, "Be prepared to die on 4/14," President Judith Dwyer said in a statement. Officials closed down campuses in Chicago and suburban Orland Park, along with classroom space in downtown Chicago, and canceled all classes for the school's 5,700 students. Buildings where community events are planned will remain open, Dwyer said.

Car pins man on NYC courthouse steps

NEW YORK (AP)—A car hurtled up the courthouse steps made famous by "Law & Order" on Friday, injuring six people, one of whom was pinned beneath the vehicle and had to be freed by firefighters. The car jumped a curb, rear-ended a coffee cart and careered up the busy stairs of Manhattan's state Supreme Court building, pinning one man beneath its front end. Firefighters covered the pinned man's face with a sheet to protect him from sparks and metal fragments as they used powerful electrical saws to cut through the 1999 Nissan sedan he was trapped under. Then they lifted the auto and pulled the man onto a stretcher before taking him away. Six people, including the pinned man and the sedan's driver, were taken to hospitals; none appeared to have life-threatening injuries, police spokesman Christopher Filippazzo said.

Swarm of earthquakes detected off Oregon

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP)—Scientists listening to underwater microphones have detected an unusual swarm of earthquakes off central Oregon, something that often happens before a volcanic eruption - except there are no volcanoes in the area.

Scientists don't know exactly what the earthquakes mean, but they could be the result of molten rock rumbling away from the recognized earthquake faults off Oregon, said Robert Dziak, a geophysicist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Oregon State University.

There have been more than 600 quakes over the past 10 days in a basin 150 miles southwest of Newport. The biggest was magnitude 5.4, and two others were more than magnitude 5.0, OSU reported.

On the hydrophones, the quakes sound like low thunder and are unlike anything scientists have heard in 17 years of listening, Dziak said. Some of the quakes have also been detected by earthquake instruments on land.

The hydrophones are left over

from a network the Navy used to listen for submarines during the Cold War. They routinely detect passing ships, earthquakes on the ocean bottom and whales calling to one another.

Scientists hope to send out an OSU research ship to take water samples, looking for evidence that sediment has been stirred up and chemicals that would indicate magma is moving up through the Juan de Fuca Plate, Dziak said.

The quakes have not followed the typical pattern of a major shock followed by a series of diminishing aftershocks, and few have been strong enough to be felt on shore.

The Earth's crust is made up of plates that rest on molten rock, which are rubbing together. When the molten rock, or magma, erupts through the crust, it creates volcanoes.

That can happen in the middle of a plate. When the plates lurch against each other, they create earthquakes along the edges.

In this case, the Juan de Fuca Plate is a small piece of crust being crushed between the Pacific Plate and North America, Dziak said.

More storms damage homes in South

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Another round of severe weather raked the storm-weary South with rain, hail and high winds Friday, damaging homes and injuring at least five people in Tennessee and Kentucky.

A mother and two children were hurt when strong thunderstorms moved through southern Kentucky in the early morning, knocking over their trailer near Bowling Green. Tara Duvall, a spokeswoman for Warren County Emergency Management, said all three were hospitalized.

"Apparently, the trailer rolled twice and fell apart," Duvall said.

Charles Foster, who lives nearby, said he helped pull one of the children from the wreckage.

"I ran up there and helped. There was a little girl, 6 or 7 years old, standing by the wall that had crumbled and had the mother and little boy pinned under the trailer," Foster said. "The little girl looked OK."

Homes were also reported destroyed in Kentucky's Wayne county. In Tennessee's Lawrence County, a possible tornado damaged 56 homes, felled trees and littered yards with debris.

In northern Giles County, power lines were knocked down, a dozen homes were



Vetta Flippo, left, walks around a tree that uprooted and fell on her home in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Friday, April 11, 2008, after severe storms went through the area. With Flippo is Derrick Stinson, an insurance claims representative. AP

damaged and three people were injured when trees fell on an ambulance, emergency management officials said.

Wind or rain damage apparently caused a roof to collapse at an apartment complex in Hoover, Ala., Friday evening, forcing the evacuation of about 20 units, said Mark Kelly of the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency. No injuries were reported.

The damaging storms come in the same week as heavy rains that flooded parts of West Virginia and Tennessee and two months after tornadoes killed 33 people in the state.

In northern Wisconsin, schools closed, thousands lost power because of trees falling on power lines and snow plows were back at work Friday as blizzard-like conditions hit.

Keith Kesler, Douglas County's

emergency management coordinator, said as much as 9 inches of snow had fallen near Superior, with wind gusting to 62 mph.

"Tree limbs are flying through the air," he said. "It is a little unusual for April to get hit like this. Winter is winter. It is getting awfully long this year."

The record for April snowfall in the area near Duluth, Minn., occurred a year ago, when 12.1 inches fell April 7.

Polygamist sect encouraged fear

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—All their lives, the girls in the polygamist sect in the West Texas desert were told that the outside world was hostile and immoral, and that venturing beyond the brilliant white limestone walls of their compound would consign them to eternal damnation.

Now, if the state gets its way, hundreds of the girls could be put in foster homes, in what could be a wrenching cultural adjustment that may require intensive counseling.

"What they are up against is having to deprogram an entire community," said Margaret Cooke, who left the sect with seven of her eight children near the end of 1994. The children "are so naive and they have been sheltered to the point that they don't even trust their own judgment."

Marleigh Meisner, a spokeswoman for the state Children's Protective Services, said the agency is working with mental health and other experts to make the children's transition as easy as possible.

Meanwhile, in court papers unsealed Friday, authorities said they found a "cyanide poisoning document" in their search of the compound in the town of Eldorado. But the 80-page list of items seized gave no further explanation.

Texas Department of Pub-



A guard is seen at left as members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints walk along a covered porch at their temporary housing, Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, in San Angelo, Texas, Friday, April 11, 2008. AP

lic Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said the document consisted of pages torn out of a first-aid book on how to treat cyanide poisoning. But she said she didn't know why the sect would have such information on hand.

Child welfare officials seized more than 400 children, most of them girls, in the raid on the compound of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, saying the youngsters were in danger of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

The renegade Mormon splin-

ter group requires girls at puberty to enter into polygamous marriages with much older men and produce children, authorities say. The sect also teaches children to fear the outside world, including the very authorities who removed them until a court hearing Thursday that will help determine their future.

"You're taught to fear everyone and everything," said Cooke, herself a bride at 16.

The children and the 139 women who followed them voluntarily out of the compound are being so secretive that

child welfare officials are having trouble sorting out who the youngster's parents are.

Most of the children are the offspring of the faith's inner circle—including its now-imprisoned prophet, Warren Jeffs—who were born since construction began on the compound in 2003, or were hand-selected by Jeffs to come to the enclave, which the sect regards as part of Zion on Earth.

In 2003 and 2004, Jeffs, the spiritual leader of an estimated 6,000 followers in two adjoining towns along the Utah-Arizona line, plucked children under age 6 to bring to Texas without their parents, former sect member Isaac Wyler said.

"Over age 6 they were too contaminated for the world to be of use to God," said Wyler, who still lives in Colorado City, Ariz., and has 38 siblings. "He picked the ones that would be the most obedient, the ones that would be qualified to go to Zion."

Authorities raided the Eldorado ranch April 3 after a girl from the clan made a whispered telephone call for help to a family violence shelter. The 16-year-old, who indicated she was a few weeks pregnant, said her 50-year-old husband beat and raped her. The girl has not yet been identified among the 416 children and may not even be among them.

Asia

China angry over US Tibet resolution

BEIJING (AP)—China expressed indignation Friday over a U.S. congressional resolution calling on Beijing to stop cracking down on Tibetan dissent and talk to the Dalai Lama.

State media, meanwhile, labeled a group linked to the Dalai Lama's India-based government-in-exile a "terrorist organization" - building on claims that recent anti-Chinese protests were part of a violent campaign to overthrow Chinese rule and sabotage the Beijing Olympics in August.

The Tibetan Youth Congress said China's communist leadership had long sought to destroy its effectiveness by smearing its reputation.

The accusations are part of a stepped-up condemnation of Tibetan protesters following massive demonstrations surrounding the Olympic torch's passage through San Francisco, London and Paris this week on its relay around the world.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu labeled the resolution passed Wednesday by the House of Representatives anti-Chinese, saying it "twisted Tibet's history and modern reality ... seriously hurting the feelings of the Chinese people."

"The Chinese side expresses its strong indignation and resolute opposition toward this," Jiang said in a statement posted



A Tibetan child yawns sitting atop his father's shoulders at a protest against the Olympic Torch's relay through Tibet at India Gate war memorial, in New Delhi, India, Friday, April 11, 2008.

on the ministry's Web site.

The resolution sponsored by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on Beijing to "end its

crackdown on nonviolent Tibetan protesters," along with cultural, religious, economic and linguistic "repression."

N. Koreans on hunger strike in Bangkok

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A group of North Korean refugees detained in Thailand has launched a hunger strike and demanded to be sent to the United States, a South Korean activist said Friday.

The 12 men and 17 women who escaped their impoverished homeland stopped eating Thursday evening, the Rev. Chun Ki-won, head of Seoul-based missionary group Durihana Mission, told The Associated Press by telephone from Washington.

The hunger strikers included a female North Korean cancer patient at a hospital in Thailand, Chun said.

He said 17 of the hunger striking refugees were being held in a Thai immigration detention

facility, while the other 11 have been housed elsewhere in Thailand with the help of South Korean missionaries and the U.S. government.

"The North Koreans want to know if and when they can travel to the U.S." for asylum, Chun said, adding that some have been in the detention center for as long as two years.

There are now 64 North Korean refugees at the immigration detention facility in Thailand, Chun said.

In Bangkok, a Thai immigration official denied the North Koreans were on a hunger strike. She refused to be identified because she was not authorized to speak to reporters.

Historic China-Taiwan meet in the offing

BOAO, China (AP)—For the past eight years, Taiwan's leadership has repeatedly invited China's president to meet to discuss tensions that make the Taiwan Strait one of the world's most potentially dangerous hot spots.

The peace talks never came close to happening.

But on Saturday, Taiwan's vice president-elect, Vincent Siew, is to sit down with Chinese President Hu Jintao for a historic meeting on the sidelines of a business conference in this

southern Chinese resort city.

The gathering would make Siew—who takes office next month—the highest-ranking elected figure in Taiwan to meet with a Chinese leader.

It's a huge diplomatic coup for Siew and President-elect Ma Ying-jeou. Although they won last month's election by promising smoother relations with China, few expected the incoming leadership to get an audience with a Chinese president so soon.

Pakistan kite festival lost to violence

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A festival that draws thousands to Pakistan's cultural capital to usher in spring by flying colorful kites has fallen victim to the country's violence and political turmoil.

Lahore's annual Basant celebration usually occurs over a weekend in February or March. But this year, spring came with no sign of the festival.

Sohail Janjua, a city government spokesman, said Basant was first postponed because of national mourning for former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated in late December.

The Feb. 18 parliamentary elections further delayed the festival, he said. And it was indefinitely put on hold after three suicide attacks struck Lahore last month, including two that killed 27 people and wounded more than 200 on March 11.

"How can we ignore the deaths of innocent people to celebrate anything?" Janjua asked.

In the past, Lahore's youth send thousands of brightly colored kites into the sky during Basant, which means yellow in Hindi—a reference to the mustard flowers that blossom in the region in early spring.

Across the Globe

Top aide to al-Sadr assassinated in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Gunmen assassinated a top aide of anti-American leader Muqtada al-Sadr on Friday, sharpening a Shiite power struggle that has already triggered fighting between the cleric's followers and the U.S.-backed Iraqi government.

Riyadh al-Nouri, director of al-Sadr's office in Najaf, was gunned down by an unknown number assailants near his home after returning from prayer services, police and Sadrist officials said.

Al-Sadr blamed the Americans and their Iraqi allies for the killing but called for calm - presumably to avoid a showdown at a time his Mahdi Army militia is under pressure by Iraqi and U.S.-led forces in Baghdad and southern Iraq.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, also a Shiite, condemned "this savage crime" and ordered an investigation "to pursue and arrest the killers." But many of the 5,000 people who attended al-

Nouri's funeral later Friday in Najaf chanted "al-Maliki is the enemy of God" as they shouted slogans against al-Sadr's Shiite political rivals.

Authorities declared a curfew in Najaf, the world's premier Shiite theological center 100 miles south of Baghdad. Security forces took to the streets in several major cities across the Shiite south. A curfew was also imposed in Hillah, where government troops clashed with al-Sadr's militia last month.



Torch-bearer soccer player Cristian Gonzalez carry the Olympic torch during the Buenos Aires tour, Friday, April 11, 2008.

Olympic flame's smooth ride in Argentina relay

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Runners surrounded by rows of security carried the Olympic flame past thousands of jubilant Argentines on Friday in the most trouble-free torch relay in nearly a week.

People showered the parade route with confetti as banks, government offices and businesses took an impromptu half-day holiday for the only Latin American stop on the flame's five-continent journey from Ancient Olympia to the Aug. 8-24 Beijing Games.

Small groups of fenced-off demonstrators protesting China's human rights record exchanged jeers with hundreds of pro-China demonstrators, but there were no major disruptions. Three water balloons thrown at

a torchbearer as he passed the presidential palace were easily batted away by guards.

The biggest threat seemed to be blustery winds that caused the propane-powered flame to flicker repeatedly.

"This is beautiful, a marvelous spectacle," said Marcelo Tejera, 26.

Mayor Mauricio Macri took the torch from Chinese organizers and opened the relay by passing it to three-time Olympic windsurfing medalist Carlos Espinola, who jogged into Buenos Aires streets flanked by Chinese bodyguards. Heavyset police from Argentina's navy huffed to keep up.

He said the event presented a "good image" to transmit to the world about the Olympic spirit.

France: Hostages held off Somalia freed

PARIS (AP)—Helicopter-borne French troops swooped in on Somali pirates Friday after they freed 30 hostages from a yacht, seizing six of the hijackers and recovering sacks of money - apparently ransom paid by the ship's owners.

The pirates boarded the 288-foot French luxury yacht Le Ponant a week ago, capturing its crew—22 of whom were French—off the coast of Somalia in the Gulf of Aden.

Pirates seized more than two dozen vessels off the Somali coast last year, mostly in hopes of securing ransoms.

Gen. Jean-Louis Georgelin, the chief of staff of France's armed forces, said the pirates released the hostages after negotiations with the ship's owner. That phase of the operation was calm, with no weapons fired, he said. The hostages were brought smoothly to safety and the pirates went ashore.

Raul's Cuba tweaks housing and wage rules

HAVANA (AP)—Thousands of Cubans will be able to get title to state-owned homes under regulations published Friday—a step that might lay the groundwork for broader housing reform.

The measure was the first legal decree formally published since Raul Castro succeeded his brother Fidel as president in February. It comes a day after state television said the government also will do away with wage limits, allowing state employees to earn as much they can as an incentive to productivity.

Together, housing and wage restrictions have been among the things that bother Cubans the most about their socialist system.

The housing decree spells out rules to let Cubans renting from their state employers keep their apartment or house after leaving their posts. They could gain title and even pass it on to their children or relatives.

Thousands of Cubans could take advantage of this move, including military families, sugar workers, construction workers, teachers and doctors.

Holding onto state housing originally designated for specific workers has been a widespread but usually informal fact of Cuban life.

Focus

China may be new land of opportunity

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—When Marvin Ho co-founded a Chinese language school in Taiwan in 1957, his only students were a handful of Western missionaries.

Five decades later, it's a different story. Ho's classrooms are packed with scores of people clamoring to learn what they believe is the next global language: Mandarin Chinese.

China, having traded socialism for capitalism, is emerging as an economic power, perhaps the only one that could rival U.S. dominance in the 21st century. For a new generation of students, business people and even artists, the land of opportunity now lies to the East, not the West.

Drawn to its promise, many are seeking ways to navigate the often rough-and-tumble Wild West atmosphere of working in China. The clearest barometer of this trend is a booming appetite for learning Chinese.

Worldwide, about 40 million people are learning Mandarin, China's official spoken language and its most common dialect. Nearly 100,000 foreigners went to China to study Mandarin in 2006, more than twice the number five years earlier.

"In my generation, the U.S. was the first choice," said Ho, whose Taipei Language Institute now boasts 2,400 students at 16 branches, nine of them in mainland China itself. This generation "thinks their future is in China. Why bother going to the U.S.? My friends encourage their children to go to China."

The rise of the Middle Kingdom has clear parallels with America in the last century, when it became a magnet for people from around the world, said James McGregor, author of the best-selling book, "One Billion Customers: Lessons from the Front Lines of Doing Business in China."

"This is a continental-sized economy being built from scratch," he said. "Everyone used to go to America because it was the global happening place. Now this is the global happening place."

McGregor, a former journalist who runs a business consulting firm in Beijing, advises those who want to head to China to bring an open mind, a sense of adventure and an appreciation for the absurd.

The other key to making it? Solid language skills.

"If you're going to be an entrepreneur, you need to sink into the culture," he said. "Any 20-year-old American thinking of doing business in China one day and not thinking of learning Mandarin is not thinking."

America has been infected by China fever. At U.S. colleges, the number of students studying Mandarin jumped 51 percent between 2002 and 2006 to 51,600, according to a Modern Language Association survey.



In this photo released by the Chinese news agency Xinhua, the country's first domestically produced bullet train is to roll off the production line at the rolling stock factory in Tangshan, north China, on Friday April 11, 2008. The train, capable of reaching 350 kilometers per hour, is one of three such trains, that would begin service on the Beijing-Tianjin route before the opening of the Olympics in August, Xinhua said.

The increase is significant, although many more students—800,000—still study Spanish.

Last year, more than 3,000 high school students took an Advanced Placement exam for Chinese language offered for the first time. And some 500 U.S. high schools, junior high schools and elementary schools offered Mandarin, nearly double the number in 2004, says Shuhan Wang, executive director of Chinese Language Initiatives for the Asia Society.

Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Utah and Indiana

which became a big hit for Hong Kong pop singer Eason Chan in mainland China and elsewhere. However, Suyama has held off diving headlong into the Chinese music scene in part because laws protecting music copyright and guaranteeing royalties are simply not enforced.

"Musically, everything in China is wide open. 'Duibuqi' was huge, but I didn't get any royalties from it (in mainland China). Only in Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong," he said.

For now, he is focusing on improving his Chinese. He and his

It's something that entrepreneur Joseph Green, 36, saw coming a decade ago, when he first moved to Taiwan to study Mandarin after getting an MBA in 1997.

A native of Houston whose heavy southern drawl disappears when he speaks rapid-fire Mandarin, Green said he feels lucky that he concentrated on Chinese when "China wasn't even on the map." Now, his friends and family congratulate him on being farsighted.

Green, who has worked in China and Taiwan, launched an

China to replace the U.S. as the leading superpower within the next 50 years.

Four of the top five nations that sent students to China for language study were Asian—South Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Vietnam respectively. The United States, which ranked third, was the only Western country in that group.

In neighboring Taiwan, where the number of Mandarin students has doubled to around 11,000 over the past decade, about 60 percent of the students are Asian. Most come from Ja-

liance Francaise, more than 100 Confucius Institutes are operating, some two dozen in the United States.

Demand for Mandarin, mostly from business-focused clients, has meant boom times for language schools like Ho's Taipei Language Institute. Clients include corporate customers, such as Mitsubishi Motors Corp., Dutch bank and insurance company ING, and HSBC Holdings PLC, Europe's largest bank.

"Mainland China has become so strong so everything has changed," said Kentaro Kawachi, 27, a student at Ho's school. His employer, Japanese trading company Marubeni Corp., is paying for him and more than a dozen other colleagues to learn Mandarin full-time. "My company needs me to learn Chinese."

But the language alone only goes so far without an understanding of Chinese culture and its distinct business style—which is why Adam Sobieski has gone out of his way to be culturally sensitive.

The 30-year-old self-described "farm boy from Minnesota" arrived in the northeastern city of Dalian in 2004 to set up an office for an American grain trading company.

He tried to talk and even dress like local businessmen. He took business calls on weekends, discovering there is little separation between personal and business life in China.

He also began drinking baijiu, a highly alcoholic spirit distilled from grain, as part of the near-obligatory bonding ritual that business deals required—until it started affecting his health.

"When I first started, I thought I had to do it. I thought I would offend them otherwise," he said. "But the most important thing is your health. People die over there because they're drinking during business lunches. That's a big cultural difference that's very hard to adapt to."

Ultimately, Sobieski said he found the key to business success was his ability to develop relationships.

"In China, the rule of law is very weak. It's the rule of man," he said. "If you can use language skills to develop relationships, or 'guanxi,' it's going to help you in the long run. Once you have a problem, you can't rely on the law. You have to find your friends, people who have connections who can help you."

Sobieski, whose mastery of Chinese won him first place at an annual language competition last December, said his ability to speak the language set the right tone for doing business, conveyed respect and humanized the relationship.

"Most foreigners who go there are pretty clueless as to what the reality is in China," he said. "If they don't have language ability, they don't have the tools to find out what the truth is."

This is a continental-sized economy being built from scratch. Everyone used to go to America because it was the global happening place. Now this is the global happening place.

are the states pursuing Mandarin instruction most aggressively, a sign of how seriously China's economic and political rise is being taken, she said.

It's a message that 26-year-old musician Skot Suyama from Seattle has taken to heart.

Suyama, whose clean-cut boyish looks hint at his mixed heritage—half Swedish, half Japanese—has spent the last several years in Hong Kong and Taiwan, creating a mix of hip-hop, pop and grunge music. His skills are in demand, because there are fewer people in the region trained in creating and producing music than in the U.S.

With only rudimentary Chinese, he penned the lyrics for "Duibuqi, Xiexie" (Sorry, Thank you) a few years ago,

Vietnamese girlfriend, Tran Ngoc Binh, spend three hours a day in a class of nine students at the Taipei Language Institute. Their classmates are from Australia, Belgium, France and Austria.

As their teacher goes over the grammar lesson for the day, they painstakingly repeat her phrases, careful to enunciate the rising and falling tones that make Mandarin so difficult. Suyama believes the payoff will be worth the pain.

"If I could go to the mainland now, I could make money," he said. "Right now in China, there's people who don't know the price of a song. You could find someone to pay you \$50,000 to write a song. If you've made a name for yourself, you can make it big there."

Internet Web site (<http://www.chinglish.com>) with a Dutch friend a couple years ago that seeks to make English-Chinese communication easier.

Chinese "won't supersede English but it's so big that it stands a chance of being integrated into the mainstream in the way that English is," predicts Green, who is now pursuing advanced Mandarin at the elite National Taiwan University. "Even the normal person in Texas is saying, 'Holy cow. This is it. I've got to learn Chinese.'"

Nowhere has interest in Chinese been stronger than among other Asians, as China's rapid ascension reshapes the priorities of its neighbors. Recent Gallup surveys in 13 Asian countries showed some 40 percent expect

pan and Korea, though growing numbers are from Southeast Asia. The rest are split between America and Europe.

"Twenty or thirty years ago, if Asians wanted to study abroad, they would go to the U.S. or Europe," said Chung-Tien Chou, director of National Taiwan Normal University's Mandarin Training Center, the largest language school in Taiwan. "Now that has changed. More young people in Asia don't only look to the Western countries anymore but they look to Asian countries as options."

China has encouraged Mandarin study through its Confucius Institutes, designed to promote Chinese culture and language. Patterned after Germany's Goethe-Institut or France's Al-

Life & Style

How a photographer assignment led to a Pulitzer, true love and a place in the Newseum

By TERESA WILTZ

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It's a moment freeze-framed in black and white, 36 years after the fact: Happy husband, grinning wife, brand new baby girl making her debut. Photographer plays fly on the wall, snaps picture, wins Pulitzer.

It's a career-defining moment—the kind that can take a young photographer from the hinterlands of Topeka to the pages of *Life* magazine and *Sports Illustrated*—and an instant in time that ends up getting your picture hung in a permanent exhibit at the newly reconstituted Newseum, which opens Friday.

But for photographer Brian Lanker, the adrenaline rush of winning the Pulitzer in '73 was eclipsed by something else, something more enduring: A long and happy marriage—to Lynda Coburn, the woman giving birth in the picture.

Cue that John Lennon song, the one about life happening to you while you're busy making other plans. Crank it. Loud.

Back in January 1972, Lanker was new to journalism, a 25-year-old working his first job as a photographer at the Topeka Capital-Journal, a paper with a



Brian Lanker's Pulitzer Prize-winning photo, "Moment of Life," captured Lynda Coburn giving birth and led to other significant developments for them both. The photo is on display at the Newseum in Washington, which opens this week.

reputation for churning out fine photojournalists. There, photographers were expected to be a total package, developing their own photo essays, pursuing their subjects, conducting their own research, taking the pictures, doing the layout and photo captions, even writing the accompanying story.

Intrigued by that newfangled way of giving birth, the Lamaze method, Lanker set out to do a photo essay on the trend. So he found a Lamaze instructor willing to let him hang out in her classes, and he started showing

up, hoping to find the perfect subject—i.e., a couple willing to let him make some exceedingly intimate pictures.

For six months, he says, he asked and asked. But was turned down by each and every couple. Then, finally, Lanker met the couple who said yes: Lynda and Jerry Coburn. Jerry, 30, was a computer programmer. Lynda, 29, was a second-time mom, a painter, an artist, open-minded. Decidedly not shy.

Sure, she said, why not? There was just one caveat:

"As long as we could kick him

out as soon as the going got rough," Lynda recalls. After all, "we didn't know him from Adam."

Numbers were exchanged. Lanker made sure the Coburns knew where he could be reached at any time, even if he was on an out-of-town assignment. When the contractions kicked in, the Coburns called Lanker before they called their doctor. Everyone arrived at the hospital at the same time.

For three or so hours, Lynda Coburn focused on the business at hand, forgetting that Lanker was even there in the delivery

room with them, snapping away. "A freight train could have gone through there," she says, "and I probably would have noticed. A little. It was all kind of a blur."

"I was on autopilot," remembers Lanker, who has twice been named the National Newspaper Photographer of the Year by the National Press Photographers Association and the University of Missouri School of Journalism. "When it was over, I had no recollection of making individual images. ... I got back to the office and hoped I had some decent images that might tell the story. But (I was thinking) how can it be more extraordinary than the actual event?"

Giving birth "is indeed commonplace, but what a glorious event," he says. "It really is life-changing, not only for a couple but in my case, for an observer as well."

He became friends with the couple, hanging out with them at their home, playing with the new baby, Jacki Lynn Coburn, even staying in touch once the family moved to Dallas. Then the 1973 Pulitzers were announced. Lanker won for feature photography, keeping company with *The Washington Post*, which won for its series on Watergate, and Huynh Cong "Nick" Ut of the Associated Press, who won in the news category for his iconic photograph of a young girl fleeing a napalm attack during the Vietnam War.

ing the Vietnam War.

"There isn't a much bigger contrast than that, a birth in the middle of Topeka, Kansas, and a tragic photograph from Vietnam. Pretty huge extreme," Lanker says.

And his life was heading for its own extreme. (Refer back to Lennon's "Beautiful Boy" lyrics.) The Coburns divorced. Lanker found himself keeping company with Lynda, first as friends, bonding over a love of fine art and fine food. Love happened. On Dec. 31, 1974, the couple wed. A son soon followed.

"He's a very compassionate, generous, creative person," Lynda says, "more than anybody I've ever come in contact with."

Today, the couple travel together, as Lanker flies around the country on freelance assignments. He spent two years photographing and interviewing 75 African American women, including Rosa Parks and Maya Angelou, for his book and traveling exhibit, "I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America." He also shot a documentary, "They Drew Fire: Combat Artists of WWII," which aired on PBS in 2000.

But one particular shoot remains his favorite.

"That photographic assignment brought me the light of my life," Lanker says. "I wouldn't want to do anything differently. I'd want to do it all over again."

Carey hits her 18th

By GLENN GAMBOA

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With her current single, "Touch My Body," topping the charts, Mariah Carey notches her 18th No. 1 single, putting her in second place among all artists in the rock era, only two behind The Beatles. How many of these do you remember? (We offer some handy five-word summaries if you don't.)

■ "Vision of Love" (1990, four weeks at No. 1): Big ballad. Realize the duh-ream.

■ "Love Takes Time" (1990, three weeks): Big ballad. Not Whitney, OK?

■ "Someday" (1991, two weeks): Dancey, sorta. Ooh, ooh someday.

■ "I Don't Wanna Cry" (1991, two weeks): Big ballad. Acoustic guitar plinking.

■ "Emotions" (1991, three weeks): Funky, sorta. Dog whistle scream.

■ "I'll Be There" (1992, two weeks): Michael Jackson remake. Cute, unplugged.

■ "Dreamlover" (1993, eight

weeks): Midtempo. Dreamlover, come rescue me.

■ "Hero" (1993, four weeks): Big ballad. See the tuh-ruth.

■ "Fantasy" (1995, eight weeks): Dancey. Poppy. "Genius of Love."

■ "One Sweet Day" (1995, 16 weeks): Sorry, I never told you ...

■ "Always Be My Baby" (1996, four weeks): Do doo doo doo down.

■ "Honey" (1997, two weeks): Hip-hoppish. Diddy. Mariah, on fiah.

■ "My All" (1998, one week): Big ballad. Remix was better.

■ "Heartbreaker" (1999, two weeks): "Fantasy"-like. Only with more Jigga.

■ "Thank God I Found You" (2000, one week): Big ballad. With 98 Degrees.

■ "We Belong Together" (2005, 14 weeks): Oh babybaby, we belong together.

■ "Don't Forget About Us" (2005, two weeks): Smooth R&B. Speaking from experience-ooh-uncce.

For Dennis Quaid, being a 'big deal' is no longer a big deal

By ELLEN MCCARTHY

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Dennis Quaid is 53. He has been in the business for 35 years and has more than 60 movies to his name. In his latest, "Smart People," he looks awful: creaky, disaffected, worn. In real life, he has settled into this conclusion: "I'm never going to be the big deal."

He delivers that sentence like a punch line. And follows through with a full, husky laugh—soundtrack to the singular image of Quaid's face, curling into that joker's smile.

So he'll never be the big deal: Life, he insists, "is better than it's ever been."

"I'm no longer on my way up," he says. "I'm not trying to become something or achieve something or be something. I'm just, um, enjoying what I do."

Lately he has been doing a lot. Quaid made four movies last year, including "Smart People," a melodrama in which he appears opposite Sarah Jessica Parker and Ellen Page as a curmudgeonly English professor who has receded into a shell of

petulance after his wife's death.

"I saw him as somebody who's sleepwalking through life. Somebody who's lost his way as far as the fire in his belly ... which I think happens to all of us at some point," he muses on the phone from New York hours before the film's premiere. "I know it's happened to me."

Quaid still vividly recalls his first week of college at the University of Houston, when he fell in love with acting. Ten years later, after some easy, early success, he was in his 30s and always "one movie away from being the big deal."

"And that one movie never happened, actually," he says, laughing again. Then came a 1990 stint in rehab, a year off that turned into two, an unheralded return and a stretch of something like sleepwalking.

Quaid continued to make movies, but "it became a real struggle," he says. Until, one day, it just wasn't. He considers 2002 (the year "The Rookie" and "Far From Heaven" were released) as

a turning point. The films were well received, but more important, it's when he decided to focus on having fun with his work and that "being the big deal doesn't really matter anymore."

He apologizes for tripping over clichés as he talks about his career, but here it comes: "Really the only satisfaction

I get from my work is doing it," he says. "I'm having more fun now at my craft than I did when I was in college."

The opportunities coming his way lately are abundant, diverse and more interest-

ing than anything he can recall from his hotshot, 30-something period. Last year, in addition to "Smart People," he made "Vantage Point," an action flick released in February; "The Express," a 1960s-era drama about Ernie Davis, the first black football player to win a Heisman Trophy, slated for release in October; and a dark thriller called "The Horsemen," expected to be released in August.

Along with the work, there

is perspective. Quaid says he worries less now, doesn't "take things so seriously and with so much weight as I used to—except for the things that deserve it." Things like his relationships with 16-year-old son Jack, from his marriage to actress Meg Ryan, and his wife, Kimberly Buffington, and their twin babies, Thomas and Zoe, who were born in November and given a dangerous overdose of an anti-clotting drug, but today are completely healthy. (Quaid started a foundation dedicated to preventing medical errors and has sued Baxter International, maker of the blood thinner.)

He's in cliché territory again, but Quaid posits that this—all the good, and the ability to appreciate it—might not exist without the bad. That without one or the other, a fellow might get stuck and end up missing out on "finding new things in life ... keeping alive that feeling of discovery."

Like that discovery about never being the big deal. And the one that came after that: "This is just what I do, you know—and I love doing it."



Quaid

26-year-old Texan crowned Miss USA

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 26-year-old entrepreneur from Texas was named Miss USA on Friday, besting 50 other beauty queens for the coveted crown.

Crystle Stewart, of Missouri City, Texas, runs a party-planning and motivational speaking company, as well as modeling professionally. She says she wants to dedicate her life to international philanthropy.

"I want to talk to people about how to set a goal and achieve it," she told The Associated Press after the show. "Because I just achieved my goal."

Stewart edged out first runner-up Leah Laviano of Mississippi and Tiffany Andrade of New Jersey.

Miss USA 2007 Rachel Smith relinquished the crown - and the posh New York apartment that comes with it - in a show aired live by NBC with hosts Donny and Marie Osmond from the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. The network co-owns the parent Miss Universe Organization with Donald Trump.

Smith, a former Miss Tennessee USA, said she was headed to Hollywood.

Stewart was headed for the publicity circuit. She said she was eager to travel and spread her message of self-improvement to young women. She noted she was one of only a handful of black woman crowned Miss USA in the pageant's 57-year history.

"I think the United States is coming together," she said, citing the historic presidential candidacies of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. She declined to name her preference.

"I don't know, we'll see. Fundamentally, I'm a Democrat," she said.

Contestants from all 50 states and the District of Columbia have been in Las Vegas for nearly three weeks, rehearsing and hyping the 57th annual pageant. After stints in Baltimore and Los Angeles, organizers billed the new venue as a city beloved by the event's international audience.

The pageant tried to showed off its edge, featuring a grinding live rock performance by the band Finger Eleven, music from Rihanna, and contestants in barely there black bikinis and faux-fur coats.

Donny and Marie kept up a steady stream of sibling banter even while swiftly whittling the field.

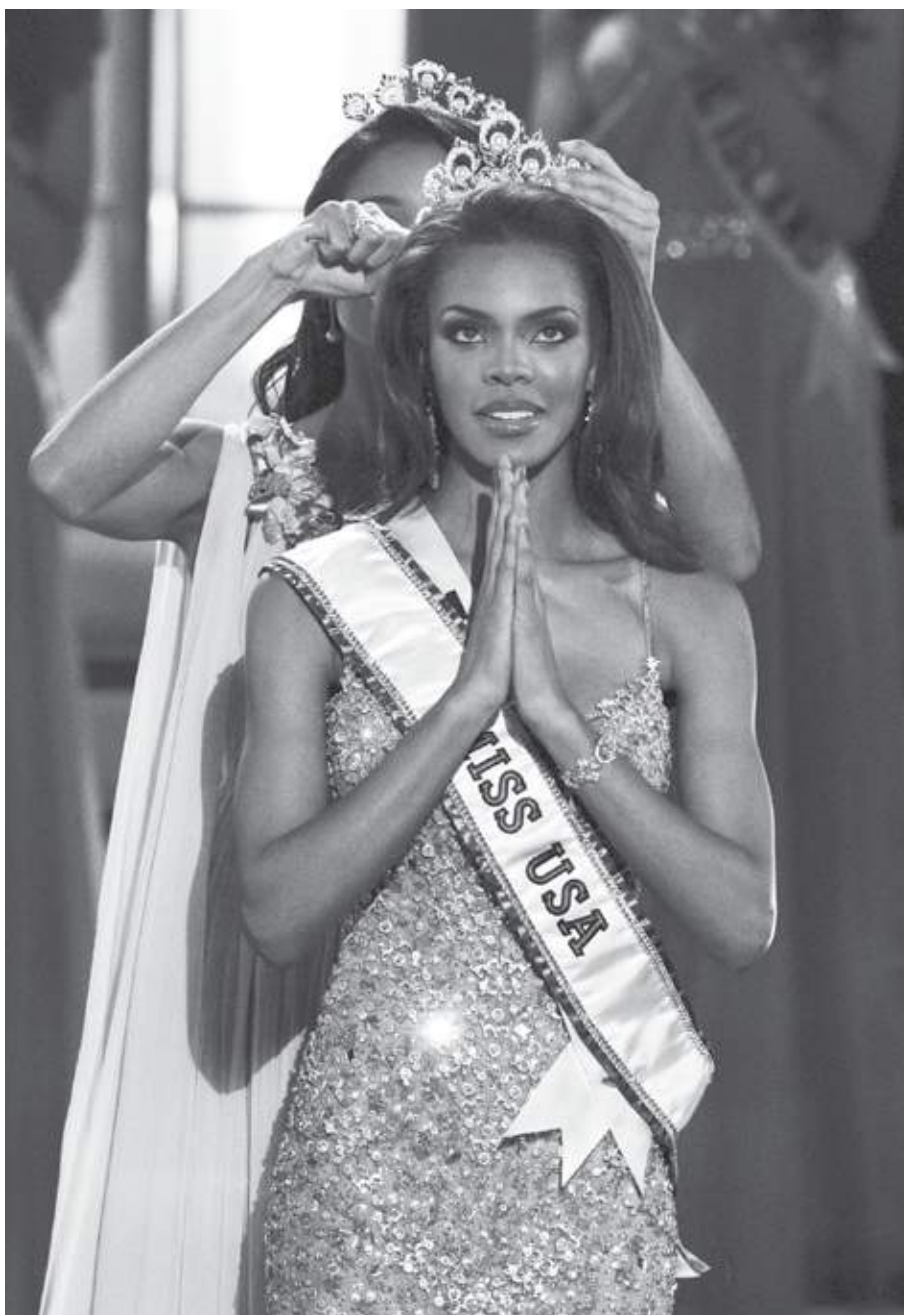
Donny Osmond told the losers to "put on a poker face" as he sent them home.

"Or use Botox; then it won't move," Marie quipped.

Stewart will compete in the Miss Universe pageant in Vietnam in July. She also becomes a spokeswoman for breast and ovarian cancer awareness and other causes, while traveling to promote the organization.

Miss USA contestants are scored in three categories: swimsuit, evening gown and interview. Miss Alaska USA, Courtney Erin Carroll, was chosen "Miss Photogenic USA" based on voting at the organization's Web site. The other contestants named Miss Ohio USA, Monica Day, "Miss Congeniality." Unlike the rival Miss America, Miss USA contestants are not asked to perform a talent.

Smith's year on the throne has



been marked by fewer racy headlines than her 2006 predecessor, Tara Conner. Conner's underage drinking landed her in rehab and sparked a media circus documenting her fall from grace.

Smith's low point was a fall onstage during the evening gown competition of the Miss Universe pageant in Mexico City. She was booed by the crowd and Miss Japan won the title.

A bigger blunder this year belonged to Miss California USA organizers. The judges crowned the wrong queen in their November contest and reversed it days later, saying Raquel Beezley, of Barstow, was the victim of a vote tabulation error. De-throned Miss Los Angeles, Christina Silva, a Hispanic woman, has filed a lawsuit alleging racial bias.

Asked to comment on the lawsuit, Stewart was whisked away by organizers. The Miss Universe Organization would not comment on the matter.

The panel of judges for Friday's pageant included Heather Mills, model and former wife of Paul McCartney; comedian Rob Schneider; Olympic gold-medal swimmer Amanda Beard; and Christian Siriano, winner of Bravo's fashion reality series, "Project Runway."

In this photo provided by Miss Universe, Crystle Stewart is crowned Miss USA 2008 at the conclusion of the telecast from the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino Theatre for the Performing Arts, in Las Vegas, Nevada on Friday, April 11, 2008. **AP**

'Mother' star clarifies Britney remarks

NEW YORK (AP)—"How I Met Your Mother" star Neil Patrick Harris wants to set the record straight: "Britney did a great job on the show."

"In fact, we are all hoping that she returns rather soon to reprise her role," he said in a statement to Entertainment Weekly's web site about Spears' cameo on the show.

Harris was responding to a story featuring earlier comments he made to The Associated Press. Asked in that interview, "why does such a gem of a show need Britney to get any attention," he responded, "I'm in the minority that our show does not need stunt casting in order to succeed."

"We've done a good three and three-quarter seasons with guest stars that we feel like are exactly perfect for the characters that (were) written ... by the crack writing staff," Harris told a reporter visiting the set of the Monday night CBS sitcom. "I worry that if they start 'Will and Grace' us too much, that the show will suffer. And we're all really proud of the content of the show. I mean viewership is not our game. It's the network and the studio's game, you know. It's the promotion department's game. We wish we weren't opposite an awkward reality dancing competition. But we have no



Director Pamela Fryman, left, gives instructions to cast member Neil Patrick Harris while taping an episode of "How I Met Your Mother" in Los Angeles on Thursday, April 3, 2008.

say about that. I just am a real fan of our content. I think we have a great show going and I hope it's not screwed up by the desire for 700,000 more viewers."

In his statement Friday, Harris said that "a writer took some quotes of mine and speculated an opinion about their intent."

The original AP story stated that Harris believed Spears should not appear on the program any more.

"I am just very protective of our show, and its content. I have

a high standard of quality, and hope to maintain it on every level. Television is big business, I understand that. I have great faith in our casting department, as well as (Twentieth Century Fox Television) and CBS, to find the appropriate person for every role on our show. I was remiss in speculating otherwise."

Spears has been the most high-profile guest star on "Mother," following appearances by Mandy Moore, Enrique Iglesias and Heidi Klum. Her well-reviewed March

24 cameo as a bubbly receptionist drew 10.6 million viewers, up 1 million from the previous week. The show has averaged 8 million viewers per episode this season, including reruns.

The show concluded with Spears' secretary flirting with Barney, the scene-stealing womanizer played by Harris.

Could she return? If so, Harris is fine with that.

"My job description is to act," his statement said, "and I should really do just that."

Library of Congress opens vaults for TV

NEW YORK (AP)—The Library of Congress will open its vaults to the History Channel in a deal to bring the library's vast public collections to a larger audience.

The History Channel and its numerous sister channels will draw from the historical content preserved by the Library of Congress for original specials and documentaries. An official announcement of the partnership is to be announced Monday.

"We're pleased to join forces with History in this effort that will help better fulfill our mission of making knowledge more accessible and useful to the Congress and the public," Librarian of Congress James Billington said in a statement.

Billington said there are over 138 million items in the library's collections, meaning plenty of fodder for historical stories previously untold. Such items include a Gutenberg Bible, George Washington's copy of the Constitution, the first United States map and the contents in Abraham Lincoln's pockets the night he was assassinated.

In contrast to an exclusive deal made in 2006 between the Smithsonian Institution and CBS's Inc.'s Showtime Networks, the History deal is non-exclusive, meaning all items will still be publicly available.

Abbe Raven, president and CEO of A&E Television Networks—which owns the family of History channels—said the deal will "result in millions of Americans having better access and knowledge of history by utilizing the collections of one of the nation's greatest institutions."

A spokesman for A&E said that no money was changing hands in the deal. Content will be co-branded to both History and the Library of Congress.

The A&E networks also include A&E, Biography, History International, History En Espanol, Military History Channel and the Crime & Investigation Network.

ON THE NET

<http://www.loc.gov>
<http://www.history.com>

Lawsuit: Ledger used cocaine at party



Actor Heath Ledger attends a special Cinema Society and Hogan hosted screening of "I'm Not There" at the Chelsea West Cinemas, in this Nov. 13, 2007, file photo in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawsuit against the photo agency and two paparazzi who allegedly filmed Heath Ledger in a hotel room where drugs were being taken claims that the late actor was also using cocaine that night.

The lawsuit, filed Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court by a woman who was not named, alleges that two Splash News paparazzi lured Ledger up to her room at the Chateau Marmont Hotel on Jan. 29, 2006. It says they gave him cocaine and secretly filmed the actor, who also had some of his own cocaine.

The woman is listed as "Jane Doe" in the court documents for "fear of consequences and repercussions" of what would happen if the "public were made aware of her true identity," but labels her as a People magazine freelance reporter covering a Screen Actors Guild Awards afterparty at the West Hollywood hotel.

"She doesn't intend with

this lawsuit to seek publicity," Douglas L. Johnson, the woman's lawyer, told The Associated Press on Friday. "If anything, she's seeking damages for the invasion of her privacy."

The lawsuit names Splash News, managing partner Gary Morgan, and paparazzo Eric Munn and Darren Banks, whom the lawsuit says the woman was "occasionally dating." Her claims against them include fraud, negligence, trespassing, and intentional infliction of emotional distress, among others.

The woman is suing for unspecified damages and profits from the sale of the Ledger tape because she says the defendants took control of a hotel room she paid for, used the mini bar and filmed her without her permission. She also claims her reputation has been damaged as a result of being featured in the footage, which she wants destroyed.

"She was deceived and doesn't feel too good about it," Johnson told the AP. "She

tried to physically throw them out of the room."

A People magazine representative confirmed the woman was freelancing for the magazine at that time and they were aware of the alleged encounter with Ledger, but there were too many questions surrounding the circumstances for People to write about it. The representative said the woman is no longer associated with the magazine and has not been since last year.

Ledger's representative had no comment about the lawsuit. Phone calls to Splash News were not immediately returned Friday.

The lawsuit says Ledger found out he was being taped by Munn on the hotel room's balcony and was very upset about it throughout the evening, but that the paparazzi calmed him down several times, supplied him with more cocaine and insisted the tape would be destroyed. A cocaine dealer arrived in the hotel room later in the evening, the lawsuit adds.

The woman, who the law-

suit says appears in the video with her face blurred, claims she forgot about the tape until "Entertainment Tonight" began advertising footage. After airing a preview of the video in January, "ET" and sister show "The Insider" decided against broadcasting the footage.

At that time, they said the video did not show Ledger using drugs.

The video later surfaced internationally and online at the News of the World Online. In the video, Ledger said that he was "going to get serious (word bleeped) from my girlfriend" for being in the hotel room. The video also showed Ledger rolling cigarette paper and saying "I used to smoke five joints a day for 20 years."

The 28-year-old "Brokeback Mountain" and "Dark Knight" star died Jan. 22 in his Manhattan apartment from taking six types of painkillers and sedatives. He had a 2-year-old daughter, Matilda Rose, with former girlfriend, actress Michelle Williams.

Former cop says he helped private eye

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former Los Angeles police sergeant charged in a federal wiretapping case testified Friday that he ran names through criminal databases for a now-indicted private eye but didn't accept bribes for the work.

Defendant Mark Arneson said he knew accessing people's private information was improper but thought it would bring only minor punishment, such as a reprimand.

"Yes, I crossed the line," Arneson said. "I've taken responsibility for that, and I will continue to."

Arneson is accused of taking bribes in excess of \$180,000 as part of a scheme orchestrated by private eye Anthony Pellicano that used clandestine tactics to dig up dirt to aid clients in legal and other disputes.

All five defendants have pleaded not guilty.

Arneson testified that the money he received from Pellicano was for off-duty security work, including escorting stars to award shows and conducting surveillance.

"The payments you received were never in connection" with running names in databases, his defense attorney, Chad Hummel, said during questioning. "That's correct," Arneson replied.

Arneson said Pellicano didn't tell him why he wanted the names run through the databases, or how the information would be used.

In some cases, Pellicano had information before the data was accessed, Arneson said.

"I was affirming information he already had," Arneson testified. "I was eliminating his legwork."

Arneson said he also ran names for other people as personal favors.

Arneson testified that one request came from FBI Special Agent Stanley Ornellas, who wanted to find out information about his neighbor. Ornellas went on to become the lead investigator in the Pellicano case. He is now retired.

Ornellas did not immediately return a request for comment made Friday through FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller.

Earlier in the day, an FBI agent testified that he was unable to decrypt some audio files seized during raids on the offices of Pellicano that began in November 2002.

Agent Donald Schmidt was the only witness called by Pellicano, who is acting as his own

attorney. Pellicano reserved the right to testify on his own behalf later in the trial.

Lawyers for the other defendants also had cases to present.

Pellicano questioned Schmidt, an information technology specialist, for about an hour. The agent testified that he was instructed to look for calls that had been wiretapped among the recordings.

He said he was unable to listen to some of the encrypted calls.

"Did you find any evidence of wiretaps?" Pellicano asked.

"I found what sounded like telephone recordings," Schmidt replied.

During the trial, prosecutors played at least six recordings of calls between Pellicano and clients but only one tape they characterized as a wiretap.

Lucas sues Brit over 'Star Wars' outfits

LONDON (AP)—It's a storm in a Stormtrooper's helmet.

Lawyers for George Lucas' Lucasfilm Ltd. and a British prop designer faced off in London's High Court Tuesday over rights to the molded white Stormtrooper uniforms from the "Star Wars" films.

Standing alongside the bewigged, black-robed lawyers in court was the object of their dispute - a 6-foot tall, helmeted warrior of the evil Galactic Empire. Lucasfilm attorney Michael Bloch called the menacing figure "one of the most iconic images in modern culture."

Lucasfilm claims violation of copyright and trademarks by prop designer Andrew Ainsworth, who sculpted the Stormtrooper helmets for the first "Star Wars" movie in 1977. London-based Ainsworth sells replicas of the helmets and armor, which he says are made from the original molds, on his Web site.

Lucasfilm won a \$20 million judgment against Ainsworth in a California court in 2006, and is seeking to have it enforced in Britain.



Ainsworth is countersuing, claiming the copyright rests with him and seeking a share of merchandising revenue from the six "Star Wars" films, which his lawyers estimate at \$24 billion.

Lucasfilm and its lawyers claim the design of the Stormtroopers was created by Lucas and his artistic team, and was already in place by the time Ainsworth was hired to create the helmets.

"The look to be created had been worked on by a large team of people for perhaps more than a year," Bloch said at the start of the 10-day hearing.

Any extra security the Stormtroopers might provide wasn't sitting well with Judge Anthony Mann, who cast a glance at the silent props standing beside him.

"Are they going to stay there for the entire trial?" he asked.

A man dressed as a Stormtrooper is shown at the unveiling of the Yoda commemorative stamp by the U.S. Postal Service, in this Oct. 25, 2007, file photo in New York.



This image originally provided by Germany's Babelsberg Studio shows Tom Cruise in the role of failed Hitler assassin Col. Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg during filming of the movie "Valkyrie".

Cruise production pushes back 'Valkyrie'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—United Artists said Tuesday it has pushed back the release of "Valkyrie," starring Tom Cruise as a World War II German officer, from Oct. 3 until President's Day weekend starting Feb. 13.

It's the second time the movie has been pushed back. It was originally slotted for June.

The film, to be distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., is the second attempt by Cruise and producing partner Paula Wagner to revive the once-moribund United Artists.

The studio's first movie, the clunky thinkpiece on terrorism, "Lions for Lambs," was

a critical flop. It is estimated to have lost about \$30 million.

MGM said the move was to take advantage of the holiday weekend.

"When an opening became available for President's Day weekend, we seized the opportunity," Clark Woods, MGM domestic distribution president, said in a statement. "Having seen a lot of the film and how great it is going to play once it's finished, moving into a big holiday weekend is the right move."

The movie, directed by Bryan Singer, is based on a real-life plot to assassinate Adolph Hitler.

Keys talks about her conspiracy theories

NEW YORK (AP)—There's another side to Alicia Keys: conspiracy theorist. The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter tells Blender magazine: "Gangsta rap" was a ploy to convince black people to kill each other. "Gangsta rap" didn't exist."

Keys, 27, said she's read several Black Panther autobiographies and wears a gold AK-47 pendant around her neck "to symbolize strength, power and killing 'em dead," according to an interview in the magazine's May issue, on newsstands Tuesday.

Another of her theories: That the bicoastal feud between slain rappers Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. was fueled "by the government and the media, to stop another great black leader from existing."

Keys' AK-47 jewelry came as a surprise to her mother, who is quoted as telling Blender: "She wears what? That doesn't



U.S. singer Alicia Keys performs in Madrid, March 17, 2008.

AP

sound like Alicia." Keys' publicist, Theola Borden, said Keys was on vacation and unavailable for comment.

Though she's known for her romantic tunes, she told Blend-

er that she wants to write more political songs. If black leaders such as the late Black Panther Huey Newton "had the outlets our musicians have today, it'd be global. I have to figure out a

way to do it myself," she said.

The multiplatinum songstress behind the hits "Fallin'" and "No One" most recently had success with her latest CD, "As I Am," which sold millions.

Mills explains divorce court outburst

LONDON (AP)—Heather Mills says she snapped when she poured a jug of water over the head of ex-husband Paul McCartney's lawyer during their bitter divorce battle. Mills was awarded a \$48.6 million settlement from McCartney last month. They had been married for four years.

She told Britain's GMTV on Friday that she became angry when his lawyer, Fiona Shackleton, argued that full details of the case, including some related to the couple's 4-year-old daughter, Beatrice, should be disclosed.

"Mrs. Shackleton said something under her breath so I

cleansed and baptized her," Mills said. "I thought she looked fantastic - I thought it did her the world of good."

Mills, 40, had sought almost \$250 million.

She spoke from Las Vegas, where she was judging the Miss USA pageant.

Asked about recent pictures in tabloid newspapers of McCartney, 65, and New Jersey trucking heiress Nancy Shevell, 47, Mills said she wished any new girlfriend luck.

"Well I think he's got three different girlfriends so I wish all the girls the best of luck," she said.

Elisabeth Rohm is a mom

NEW YORK (AP)—Elisabeth Rohm of "Law & Order" fame is a mom for the first time.

The 34-year-old actress and her fiancé, entrepreneur Ron Wooster, welcomed a baby girl named Easton August Anthony in Los Angeles on Thursday afternoon, Rohm's publicist Tina Malhotra told The Associated Press on Friday.

Malhotra said the name came to Rohm in a dream, and that Anthony is Wooster's "other surname."

Rohm and Wooster, 40, plan to marry this October in Palm Springs, Calif.

Rohm portrayed assistant district attorney Serena Southeryn on "Law & Order" from 2001-2005.

Actress Elisabeth Rohm poses on the press line at the Movies Rock celebration at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles in this Dec. 2, 2007 file photo.

AP

Christian Brando died of pneumonia

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles County Coroner's office says Christian Brando died of pneumonia.

The coroner's office released autopsy results on Friday.

The eldest son of the late actor Marlon Brando, Christian died in January at a Los Angeles hospital. He was 49.

Christian Brando's mother, actress Anna Kashfi, divorced Marlon Brando after a year.



Producer Mark Ronson signs label deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Ronson, the Grammy-winning producer who worked on Amy Winehouse's star-making American debut, is aligning his Allido record label with Interscope Records, and adding a new artist: much-buzzed about emerging rapper Wale.

"He's the first rapper from (Washington) D.C. who sort of has the chance to make it. He's incredibly intelligent," Ronson told The Associated Press this week of the artist, who is expected to re-

lease his debut later this year.

"I feel like Wale is kind of picking up ... from Kanye (West)'s generation to a whole new generation," he said. "Wale has all the elements to make one of those great classic hip-hop debut records."

Ronson produced much of Winehouse's "Back to Black," which won five Grammys, and worked on Lily Allen's debut CD, "Alright, Still." He's already back at work in the studio with Winehouse, who finished a

much-publicized stint in rehab earlier this year. Ronson said Winehouse's mood in the studio is "the same as (it) always is. I suppose the paparazzi have to figure out how (to) wiggle in."

As far as the artistic direction of Winehouse's record, he said the pair haven't settled on one.

"I don't know, honestly," he said. "If you think about it too much ... you start to try and emulate things. ... When I hear the songs I'll know what kind of record to make."



AP

Music producer Mark Ronson attends the celebrity designed Lunchbox auction to benefit the Food Bank of New York City and The Lunchbox Fund in this Dec. 6, 2007 file photo in New York.

Man's silence may say more than girlfriend wants to hear

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Louis" for six months. Things are going great. I know he is my soul mate, and I need look no further. He's intelligent, artistic, appreciative, caring, and we have the same political and spiritual philosophy. We are both optimistic about a wonderful future together.

There is just one problem. Louis is emotionally constipated. He has trouble saying, "I love you." We discussed it, and he told me his last girlfriend—

his only other serious relationship—just said, "Oh," when he told her he loved her. So now he's afraid of voicing the sentiment. Also, I heard his mother tell him she loved him, and Louis didn't respond to her.

He has asked me to move in with him for the summer while we're on college break. He says I'm an inspiration, and he's never been happier. He says our relationship is like an oak tree, solid and forever growing stronger. His aunt has also "casually" mentioned that she has Louis' grandmother's wedding ring if he wants it anytime soon.

Should I tell Louis I love him and risk scaring him off? I couldn't stand for him to say "Oh" to me. What's your advice?

LOVES HIM IN MOUNT PLEASANT, MICH.

DEAR LOVES HIM: Before you become more deeply involved with Louis, you need to review what happened with his mother. A son who remains silent when his mother says, "I love you," has issues that go beyond having had a girlfriend who only said "Oh" when he expressed his love for her. Surely her cool response was hurtful. And if so, why would he repeat that behavior?

Under no circumstances should you move in with Louis "for the summer." He may say your relationship is like an oak, but I can't think of a surer way to create root rot in the relationship. Slow down. His inability to tell you he loves you may stem from the fact that he doesn't.

Louis' aunt dropped you a broad hint when she mentioned his grandmother's wedding ring. Do not move in with him until you are sure he intends to use it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am well aware of the risks of smoking. However, I have chosen to take the risk and continue the habit. When I smoke, I do it only outside, away from others so I won't infringe on anyone else's health.

When people decide they need to lecture me on why I should quit, how should I politely respond that I don't need their advice? I will decide on my own when I am ready to quit and make the effort. I understand they are trying to help my overall health, but it's really none of their business.

NOT READY TO KICK THE BUTTS IN KENOSHA

DEAR NOT READY: You're right—it is none of their business. However, it takes genuine affection and concern to confront an addict about the risk of his or her addiction, so give them some credit for reaching out.

I find it sad that you're so hooked that you continue puffing away in spite of the knowledge that it may one day kill or disfigure you. But that said, when you are approached about it, simply repeat the first two sentences of your letter to me. That will get your message across. And when you do, please try not to breathe on them because it could be hazardous to their health.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Job Vacancy Announcements

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The Week in Sports

Wabol, May-December tandem are week's best

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mr. Unorthodox Jess Wabol and the May-December tandem of Jeff Race and Mayuko Arriola topped the sports headlines last week.

Wabol was wonderful anew after the former Oleai Elementary School principal foiled Jeff Taylor's title defense in last Saturday's 7th Annual Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Charity Classic held at the Marianas Country Club.

Wabol, despite the windy conditions, bested six other golfers in the Championship Flight to win the title in the first of the three major golf tournaments in the CNMI.

The Refaluwasch Golf Association tournament director fired a 37 in both the front and back nines to end up with a final score of 74 and enjoyed a three-shot lead over last year's champion Taylor.

Race and Arriola, for their part, led nine other pairs that won their respective divisions in the 8th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Championships played last weekend at the PIC courts.

Race completed a doubles sweep when he teamed up with Arriola in claiming the mixed doubles open title, beating the

pair of Peter Loyola and Lydia Tan in Sunday's finals, 6-2, 6-3.

Guam's Team Haggan, meanwhile, swept the 18th edition of the Jam Attack, completing their back-to-back title bids in the two-day tournament held last Saturday and Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Haggan ruled both the men's and women's divisions after surviving the gallant stands put up respectively by Saipan's Ol'Aces and YoYo's.

Former Saipan Senior League All-Star Jon Salas is also making waves in the mainland after helping the Timberline High School Wolves return to the 5A State Championships in Boise, Idaho. Salas is the eldest son of former Saipan Little League Baseball Association president Joe and Cathy Salas of Kagman III.

Last week also saw Ji Hoon Heo compete in the 2008 Jeju International Junior Championships at the Yeonjeong Tennis Courts in Jeju City. Although, he did not do well in the tournament, the CNMI tennis star vowed to do better in future events in the Land of the Morning Calm.

The week also saw the continuation of games in the SBA Open 8-Ball League, 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League, Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League, Inter-government Softball League, and the Saipan Little League Baseball Association.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Finalists in the mixed doubles open division, from left, Jeff Race, Mayuko Arriola, Lydia Tan, and Peter Loyola.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Finalists in the boys' 9-and-under division, from left, Evzen Pabellon, Chris Cajigan, Colin Ramsey, and Elnathan Wong.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coaches and players of the Matansa Football Club pose for a group photo after the end of the Youth Football League season last week at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Field.



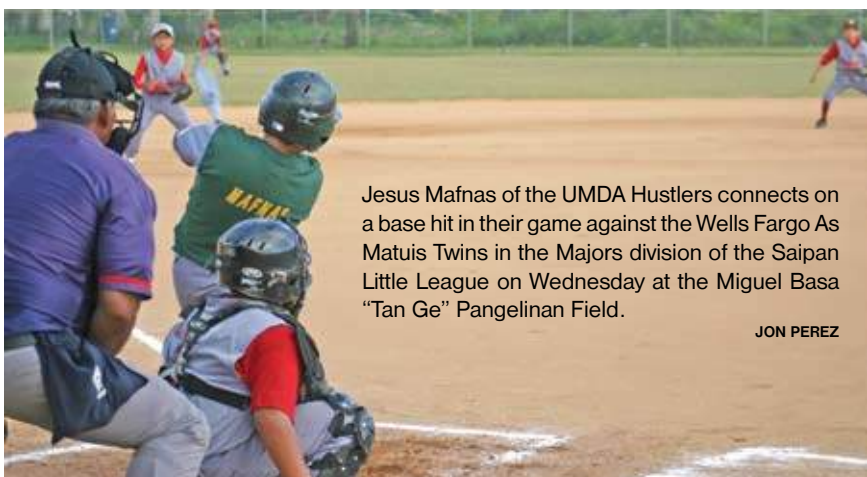
SERGEI BARGAMOTOV

Ilija Corella watches the direction of her shot in this file photo taken during her girls' 13-and-under match in last month's Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament at PIC courts.



JON PEREZ

Komoro pitcher Jae Young Kim checks the runner on first base before throwing a pitch in their Wednesday game against the Tigers in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Jesus Mafnas of the UMDA Hustlers connects on a base hit in their game against the Wells Fargo As Matuis Twins in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Wednesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ



JON PEREZ

Kagman Little Lions pitcher Michael Muna throws at the plate in their game against Happy Market Ol'Aces in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Tuesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



JON PEREZ

Jess Wabol, center, holds his Championship Flight trophy after winning last week's 7th HANMI Charity Classic in the award ceremony at the PIC Charley's Cabaret in San Antonio. Others in photo are Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Matt Araki, left, and Adeana Shendal Greenlee.



JON PEREZ

Advance X-Terminators' Andres "Jhun" Estolas, left, tries to score against Steve Rasa of Shirley's Coffee Shop-Blue Haus in their game in the 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League on Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



JON PEREZ

Happy Market Ol'Aces pitcher Jess Brel watches the direction of his throw in their game against the Kagman Little Lions in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Tuesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



Immelman leads Masters; Tiger 7 back

Tiger Woods hardly matched the hype again in the second round of the Masters on Friday, and will have to pull off the second-best comeback at Augusta National to start a Grand Slam.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Wabol, May-December tandem are week's best

Mr. Unorthodox Jess Wabol and the May-December tandem of Jeff Race and Mayuko Arriola topped the sports headlines last week.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rock Steady stays solid in BSML

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Byrone Kaipat and Tony Palacios maintained Rock Steady's solid hitting and pitching, leading their team to a 5-0 record in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League.

Kaipat is batting .647 going 11-for-17 to lead four of his teammates that barged into the Top 10 batting leaders. The D9ers' Greg Camacho came in second with .500.

Four of Kaipat's teammates placed from third to sixth with Manny Sablan and Tony Celis ending up tied with .450 while Tyrone Omar and Dane Lizama batted .437 and .435.



The Korean Dreams' Justin Reyes and John Tenorio and Tony Camacho of the D9ers', and Komoro's Jae Young Kim all batted .400.

Kaipat also scored 10 runs joining Jesse Iguel, John Reyes, and another batter to place behind the 13 made by Greg Camacho. Omar, Lizama, and Camacho had nine runs each.

Celis led the doubles department with four followed by the three of Sablan, Reyes, and Tenorio. Jason Reyes led the triples with four, while Nick San Nicolas and Shane Mendiola had three and two apiece.

Dennis Cruz, Tim Mafnas, Tony Manibusan, Oliver Secharmidal, John Reyes, and Jae Young Kim had blasted a home run while Tenorio is pacing the RBIs category with 13 followed by Mendiola's eight and the seven of B.J. Sablan and



JON PEREZ

Jae Young Kim of Komoro checks the runner on first base before throwing a pitch in their game against the Tigers in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Nick San Nicolas. Mike Pangelinan and Kaipat had six each.

Palacios now leads the pitching department with a 0.82 ERA, giving up one earned run on six hits in the 11 innings he pitched for a 2-0 record.

Komoro's record-breaking pitcher Kim is in second place with a 2.12

ERA. He already pitched 29.2 innings in four games giving up seven earned runs on 20 hits for a 1-2 record.

Others in the Top 10 are Mafnas (Rock Steady, 2.28); Ben Duenas (Tigers, 2.32); Mel Sakisat (Ford Rangers, 2.50); McGregory Camacho (Tanapag Falcons, 3.18); Mendiola (Dreams, 4.57); Leroy Dela



JON PEREZ

Defending champion Tanapag Falcons pitcher Joshua Muna waits for the signal of his catcher in this file photo taken in one of their games in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Cruz (D9ers, 4.67); Joshua Muna (Falcons, 4.69); and Joab Thomas (Dreams, 5.90).

Kim also leads the league in strikeouts with 62, while Mendiola is a far second with 34. Dela Cruz and Camacho are tied with 15 each while Palacios and Tuwi Ngiraidong had 11.

Tournaments abound in Tinian Fiesta

The committee for the 2008 Tinian Fiesta is inviting players and teams from Saipan to join them in four tournaments they have lined up on May 2 and 3 for the Annual Tinian Fiesta Sportsfest.

Tinian Fiesta sports committee chairwoman Prince C. Monkeya

said they are offering competitions in men's and women's volleyball, softball, and tennis, and men's basketball.

Deadline to confirm participation in the Tinian Fiesta Sportsfest is on or before April 15, Tuesday.

Monkeya said, accommodations

will not be provided and teams or players who will join the said tournaments should provide their own. "I apologize for this but I hope they understand the situation were currently facing with regards to the economic crisis."

Saipan teams and players still have

at least three more weeks to prepare and join its sister island in the celebrations and friendly competition.

For more information, call Monkeya on Tinian at 433-9330 or email her at a.shada@pticom.com or Elias Rangamar on Saipan at 664-2502. (Jon Perez)

'Palaxi' battles Brazilian foe in PXC Live

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan will have the biggest fight of his career when he takes on Brazilian black belt Eben Kaneshiro in the main event of PXC Live in Guam.

The fight was held Friday night in Guam after the weigh in at Planet Hollywood in DFS Galleria in Tumon. Results of the match were not

yet available at press time.

Cuki Alvarez accompanied Sablan, who is Saipan's top 145-lb. fighter. They left for Guam on Wednesday.

PXC Live was simultaneously aired on Guam.

Sablan's last match was in Preba Hao X on Dec. 14 at the Guam Greyhound in Tamuning

where he defeated the charismatic Ryan "The Dentist" Urquiza in the main event.

He won by a third round technical knockout due to referee stoppage to improve his mixed martial arts record to 9-4.

More importantly, Sablan bounced back after losing to John Tuck in



PXC XIII: Back from the Dead also held in Guam in November.

Preba Hao, which means prove yourself, is the arena where rising young and first time MMA fighters get the chance to prove themselves that they can excel in no-holds barred matches.

Sablan was scheduled to fight twice in Guam early this year but his matches got cancelled before the event.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN

Coldeen is a longtime sports journalist in the CNMI and is the news and sports director of the Flame Tree Network.



Boycott? Pshaw!

The only question I have for those out protesting the Olympic torch relay is "Where have you been?" The Tibet Problem has been around since the Fifties and now you decide to make noise. Why not last year? Or last decade?

Super Sports Fan is being assaulted by part-time Political Person. Go away.

The time for outrage was in 2001 before the IOC gave the Summer Olympics to Beijing over Toronto. Tibet was the same then as today, a non-willing part of the China motherland, taken by force in 1950, coerced into a 1959 seventeen point agreement.

And the United States acquired Puerto Rico and Guam how? The people there weren't asked if they wanted to join the American team. What does political assimilation have to do with sports anyway? Well, yes, that is my main point. It has nothing to do with sports.

I empathize with the noble cause of fighting for human rights which I agree are far more important than games. The Olympic flame has sparked an opportunity for Johnny and Juanny to come out of their living rooms and into ours. Opportunists, they are, true bandwagoners and Sports Fan hates bandwagon fans.

Take, for example, Mr. Jones who continues a weekly silent protest against the Iraq war at American Memorial Park. Whether you agree or disagree with him, at least you must concede that his conviction runs deep and sincere. Contrast him with the people jumping on the latest sports train to further their own political cause. As soon as the Olympics are over, we won't hear from them again. Yet the Tibet Problem remains intact.

One reason that the IOC awarded the Olympics to Beijing was to bring China closer to world norms. We are seeing it now through strange news stories that pop up such as workshops to teach people to smile and also how to line up since they are not used to standing in lines, something that I learned in a Saipan market. They are preparing to use rockets to disperse clouds above the open-air stadium so that it won't rain on everybody. And now if it isn't rain that will fall on their parade, it's the boycott that will rain on their opening ceremony if some people have their way.

The only real effects of the boycotts of the 1980 and 1984 Olympics were depriving hard-working people in their prime of a once-in-a-lifetime dream. For what? For politicians who failed to achieve their goals in other ways. I can't imagine the frustration of sacrificing a chance of fame and fortune for a political cause that ends up having no effect on anything else.

That's giving your all for nothing.

If people want to get China's attention, then stop buying their cheap stuff. That sends a louder and more effective message than boycotting the Olympics opening ceremony or games.